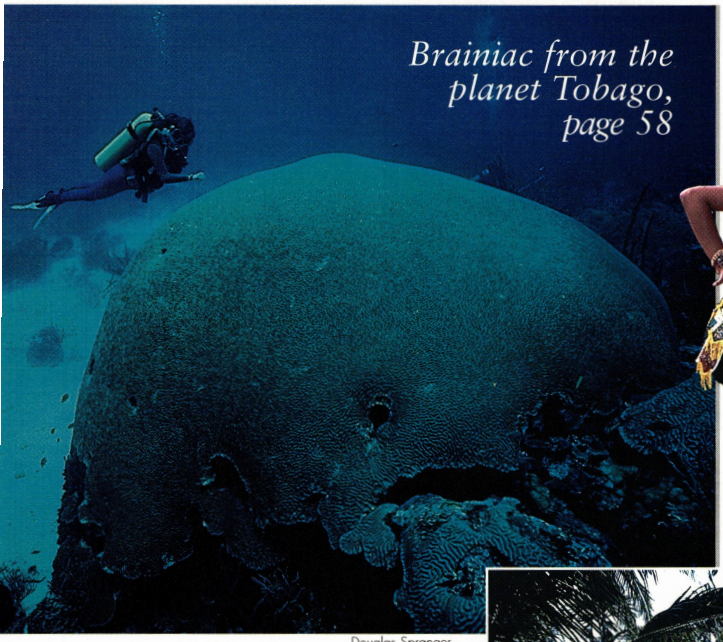
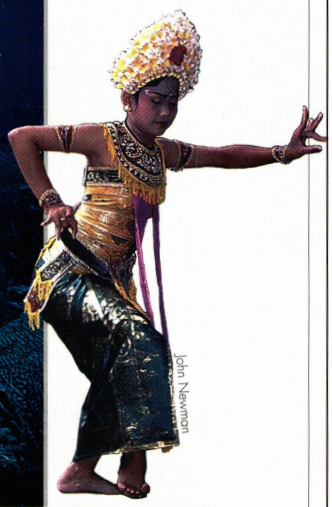


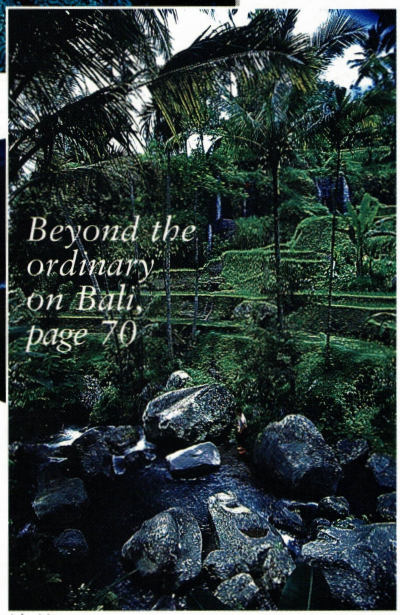
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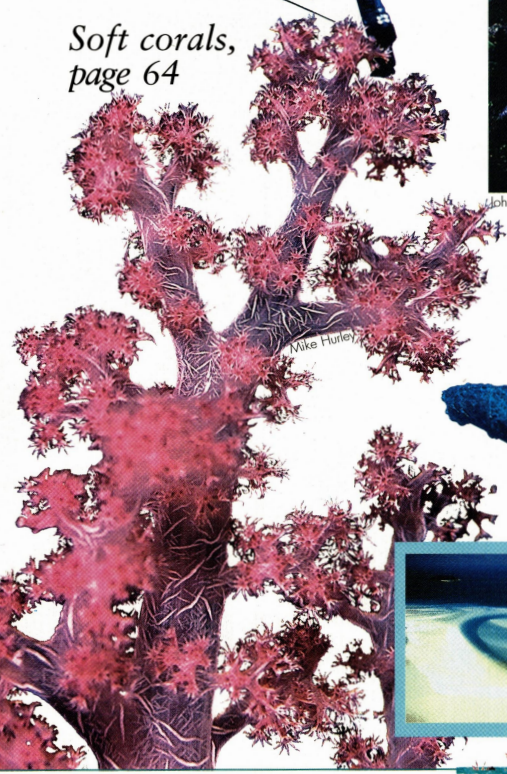
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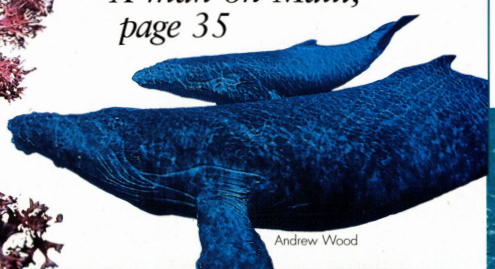
David Bull



John Newman



Mike Hurley



Andrew Wood



THIS MONTH'S COVER:
Whitehaven beach in the Whitsunday Islands, Queensland, Australia

Photo by F. Stuart Westmorland

DiveTravel

SPRING 1996

Dive Travel magazine is produced quarterly by Barkley Publishing. Our mission statement: "We are dedicated to providing divers with the definitive source for constructive, balanced and ecologically sound travel advice and the chance to regularly escape to exotic lands and waters with the help of top-quality photography and travel writing."

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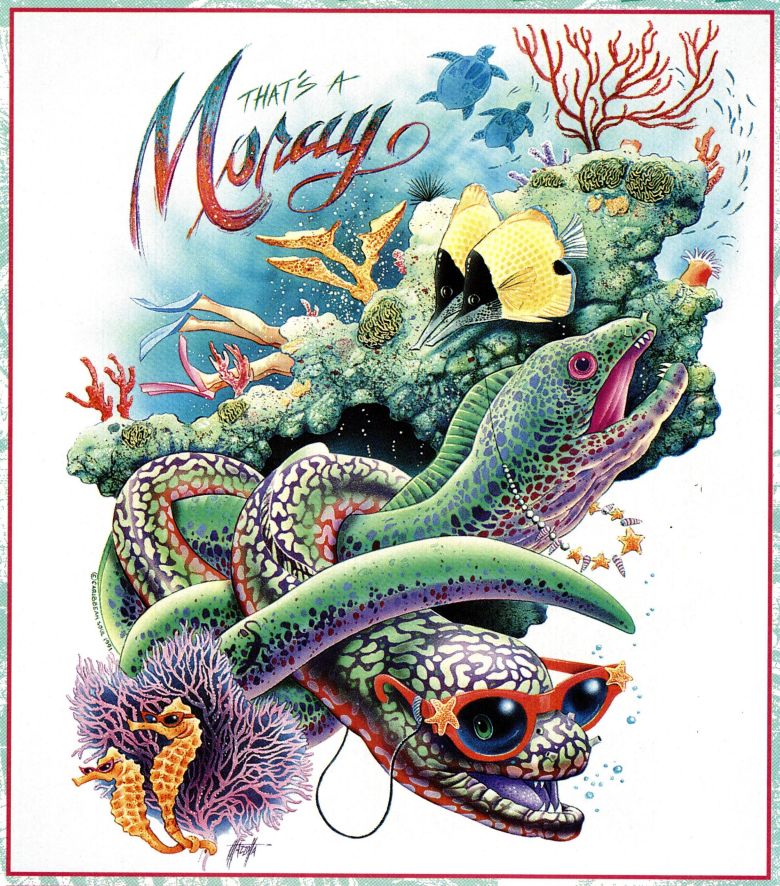
Thanks to Papa's Church, Kyle and Joe's mom., Jochen and Mrs. F. for the cookies, Dano for his sympathetic ear and sage advice, and extend a warm welcome to the new neighbors (including Burgee who can lay his bones on our carpet anytime).

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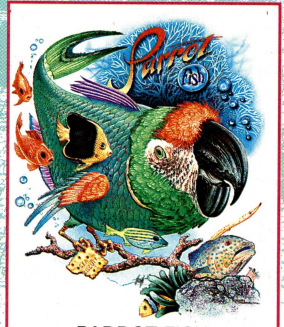
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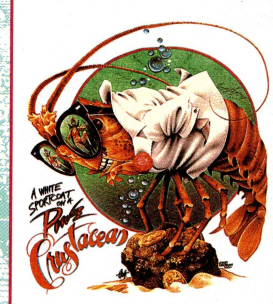
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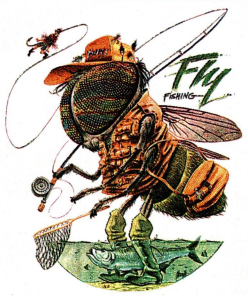
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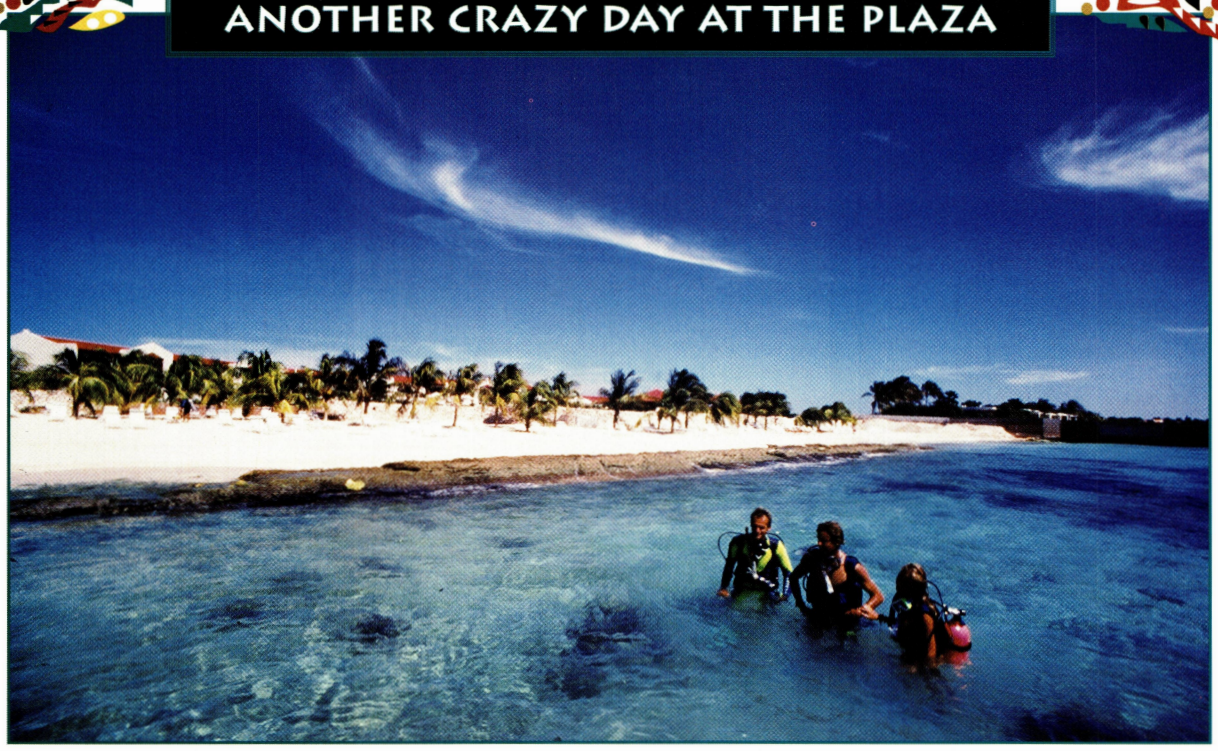
Behold the mysterious broccoli tree: **SOFT CORALS**

Seeking the devilfish in **TOBAGO**

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ANOTHER CRAZY DAY AT THE PLAZA



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Dive the Magic Kingdom

Never mind the icons of animation, the merchandising genius, the enormous taffy-colored structures dominating the landscapes of Orlando and Anaheim. Never mind the usual things that come to mind when you consider the Walt Disney Company. Instead, focus on the feeling you get when you step across the threshold of one of their amusement parks. The cheer. The wonder. The tremendous mix of people—all blending under the care and supervision of the Disney clan. So here's the theory: it's the members of the Disney employee-family who are the source of that company's success.

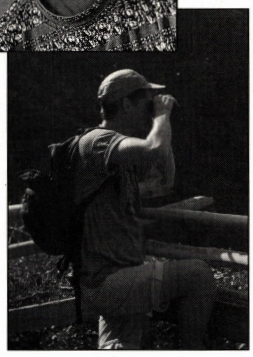


So why, you ask, is the publisher of a dive magazine bringing this up? Because the same set of reasons also lies at the root of every tremendous dive experience. Even with superb weather and bountiful marine life, without the cheer, the wonder and the great mixture of people, your dive experience will be only half-hearted.



Clockwise from top: Hodges, Parkes and Divemaster Ketut, the ever-watchful Simonetti, Hurley contemplates the broccoli





Enter the divemaster. The leaders of all expeditions hold much of the power to make or break a trip in their hands. If they match some of the enthusiasm and professionalism of the average Disneyite, the dive will probably be a real bonus to your dive log. If not...

I am a fairly new diver. I got my certification in the rather cool coastal waters of California. On my first ocean dive the day was gray, the visibility so-so. But the group was so enthusiastic about zipping through the kelp forests after the instructor had raved about them—we were all wonder. It was the best.

On my second dive, I made it to warmer waters, yet it was a disappointment. The divemaster and his cronies were so blasé, it set the tone for the whole boat. Granted, no one saw a hammerhead. No one lost her nose to a moray, but I still wanted to yak about the experience when I hit the surface. It was all our fearless leaders could do to stifle a yawn.

Maybe it isn't easy to muster that kind of spiff every day, plugging out to the same spots, pointing out the same highlights. But I suspect it isn't always pure joy to slip into Goofy on an average Florida summer day, either. So for those in the dive industry who grin and bear, for those people giving it the old Mickey Mouse try—day in, day out—here's a major round of applause. You are the folks who often make the difference for the rest of us between ho-hum and a wonderful world of color.

Susan Wilmink, Publisher

P.S.: Please let us know when you have a really wonderful experience because of the knowledge, humor or big heart of a divemaster. We'd love to print it and run it in our internet site, now at its new address: **http://www.divetravel.com/**

A Right Mind Vacation

If you practice long and diligently enough, eventually you can learn to unbutton your mind like a jacket in a too-hot room, shuck the confines of winter and work and the Newtonian fetters that bind you to the world. Without ever leaving your desk, you can ramble off beneath the veiled pali, into a dream of green on green, the scent of guava and waves and plumeria thick in the afternoon like a reckless promise. Return instants, minutes, hours later, hair salt stiff, and on your skin, the memory of glinting sun, the heat of turquoise sky.

And so it goes with this issue, assisting your journey as our own. From Australia's Great Barrier Reef to the soft winds of the Gulf Coast on a night when coral spawn, from the myth that is Bali to the wide and wooly waters of Tobago, we've gathered the stories, the tales, the facts.

Dive writer and former resident of Australia Val Hodges sends word of diving the land down under. With enough sidebars and specialty facts to stun even a shameless infojunkie into submission, we think you'll find the cover story on Queensland diving useful if you're planning a trip. And great entertainment, even if you're still in the armchair stage.

Storyman Simonetti beams in from the famously manta-rich waters of Tobago. Too bad for Joel, it just wasn't his week. But for every one of the fabled devilfish that escaped his eagle eyes, he caught a netfull of other beauties: sponges, anemones, and—get smart, dude—the largest brain coral in the world. New York photographer Douglas Spranger's images are a splendid accompaniment.

Moon Publications author Carl Parkes teamed with our own mad-monk Newman to present a couple of takes on the Bali myth, the diving, the dancing, and the Monkey Temple. There's the sensible, how-to approach, and, of course, the wild ramblings of our staff lunatic, always a good read.

And if all that just sounds too dang far away, check out the epistolary offerings of television producer John Warner, sending his observations from the Flower Garden Marine Sanctuary. It's off the coast of Texas, and it's one of the places in U.S. waters where you can catch those crazy coral polyps enjoying an erotic night on the ocean.

Speaking of coral, Nature Notebook this issue shines the klieg lights on soft corals. Mike Hurley got down, delivering all the facts on what some folk call the showiest stuff in the sea. And his images are stunners, too.

In the Edge, listen up when Wings Stocks, technical diver extraordinaire, talks story with Editor Susan Watrous on diving the Andrea Doria, trimix and other risky business. And in the technical section, renowned diver/tech-diving instructor Bret Gilliam keeps readers current with the latest in nitrox diving.

We hope you enjoy the travels. It's definitely a right-thinking vacation.

Susan Watrous and John Newman, Editors

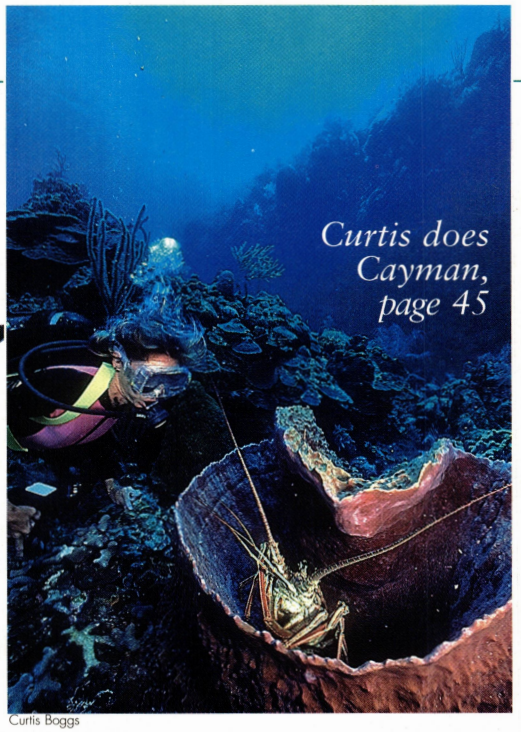
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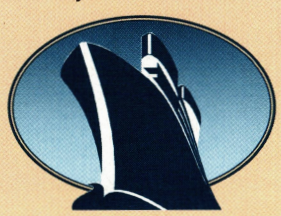
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by John Warner

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HIGHLIGHTS • EVENTS • PROFILES • INDUSTRY NEWS

CALENDAR

January 1996
Truk, Micronesia



Mighty Thorfinn Returns
The live-aboard S.S. Thorfinn returned to Truk, Micronesia in December after a massive refitting in Australia. Book a week's passage aboard this beauty, with unlimited diving in Truk Lagoon; price: $1,895.
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Broadreach's dive program for teens builds confidence, character and cultural bridges

IT'S NOT EASY BEING TEEN

But thanks to groups like Broadreach it can be a lot of fun

Being a teenager is a tough job. Worrying about zits, one's standing on the coolness index, and the fascinating qualities of the opposite sex can occupy a young mind for years. Every little event is huge, signifying certain death, or at the very least, the end of the universe.

With much concern over the state of today's youth, activities for teenagers are on priority lists for lots of us. Enter Broadreach and Island Expeditions—two organizations offering alternatives for teens to step beyond their own backyard, to learn and grow in exotic spots around the world.

Broadreach is a group specializing in dive-intensive trips for teenagers. Their latest endeavor, the Sinai Experience, is a 21-day adventure introducing students to the Bedouin way of life, and "unlocking the mysteries of the Red Sea" for divers of the adolescent kind. Broadreachers generally range in age from 13 to 19 and programs include more than just diving. Values like teamwork, leadership, self-confidence and responsibility are stressed, in order to build more than just strong bodies.

Participants can earn multiple diving certifications, from Open Water through Advanced, Night Diver, Underwater Photography and Rescue. Students dive walls at Ras Mohammed, the *Thistlegorm* wreck, and receive intimate and thorough instruction from Broadreach's instructors. Teacher to student ratio is one to four. In addition, they take boat safaris and see the area's historic and cultural sights on desert excursions.

Broadreach's motto is to "travel roads not everyone has traveled, visit places not everyone has visited, and do

An old, old sight, and yet somehow so young; aye, and not changed a wink since I first saw it, a boy, from the sandhills of Nantucket! The same! — the same! — the same to Noah as to me. There's a soft shower to leeward. Such lovely leewardings! They must lead somewhere — to something else than common land, more palmy than the palms."
***Moby Dick*, Herman Melville**

CALENDAR

Through March 31
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Castaway Island Resort, in Fiji's Mamanuca group, is offering free diving with a five-night minimum stay. Choose from 20 sites within 25 minutes of the island—excellent hard and soft corals, batfish, clownfish, morays and more. Would you rather eat free instead? Castaways other no-pay plan offers three full meals a day (with a six-night minimum stay), from toast and eggs in the AM to Fijian specialities in the PM.

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Queensland, Australia



Roll Up Your Pants, it's time for the ***1996 Muddy Fish Festival***

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things not everyone has done." Programs start at $2400 and include everything but airfare. Broadreach has programs in the Caribbean, Antigua, the Bahamas, Guadeloupe and Ecuador. And, even though the temperate is tropical, it's guaranteed to be cool.

For something a little more long term, Island Expedition's School at Sea, a nonprofit scientific and educational organization, offers its students a seat in the classroom of the world.

Intensive programs allow students of high school and college age to earn academic credits while studying sailing, navigation, diving, computer skills, survival skills, photography/film and languages, in addition to following regular courses of study via correspondence. As you might expect, the School at Sea excels in language and environmental studies.

Students can enroll in specialized courses like the language program focusing on English, Spanish and French, biology and environmental sciences, creative writing and journalism. At the same time, whale-watching, diving, hiking and sailing are just some of the exciting and educational activities in which School at Sea students can participate.

Courses consist of three-month trimesters, at a cost of U.S. $850 per month, and scholarships are available for those who qualify. Classes in the School at Sea are held throughout the Bahamas and the Caribbean. The educational opportunity is A+, and like the Broadreach program, the coolness rating is off the charts.

Broadreach
Phone: (919) 833-1907
Fax: (919) 460-6638
Island Expedition
Phone/Fax: (809) 327-8659

—Keri Ann Gordon



Say ahhh—Stuart Cove divers and their tonically immobile patients

F. Stuart Westmorland

SHARK DENTISTRY

Stuart Cove's shark doctors are getting silkies off the hook

Shark dentistry? Sounds like an oxymoron, doesn't it? And who would be crazy enough to stick their hands in there anyway? How do you get them to stay in the chair? Okay, okay there is no chair. No x-rays, dental drills or fillings for that matter. Shark dentistry is the latest fight in the battle to preserve the ocean's delicate ecosystems and the people at Stuart Cove Dive South Ocean in Nassau, Bahamas are doing this kind of dental work every day.

Business owners Stuart and Michelle Cove and their associates have begun a partnership of sorts with the sportsfishers of the Bahamas, establishing an invaluable rapport. Approximately 10 miles offshore from Cove's shop is Shark Buoy, placed there by the U.S. Navy years ago. Around this buoy a lush ecosystem has grown, attracting sharks and big game fish—a veritable smorgasbord for sportsfishers. Unfortunately, an occasional silky shark—common in the area is hooked on the line.

Historically, the fishing hook was left in the shark's mouth or, worse, the sportfishers attempted to remove the hook, risking personal injury or injury to the shark. Cove and colleagues work extensively with the animals, shark dives being the shop's specialty and a big draw of the business. Through friendship and a developed partnership with the sportsfishers, Cove is utilizing his shark expertise and has taken over the task of removing the hooks. The fishers are advised to simply cut the line, leaving the excess to trail along as the shark swims.

This is where Cove's shark aficionados come in. Using a technique called tonic immobility, the sharks are flipped over onto their backs. This renders the animal powerless, and a catatonic state ensues making it easy to remove the hook with little or no pain, and no risk. No novocain is required.

"We're putting something back into the ocean, says Cove. "Even though it seems like something tiny or

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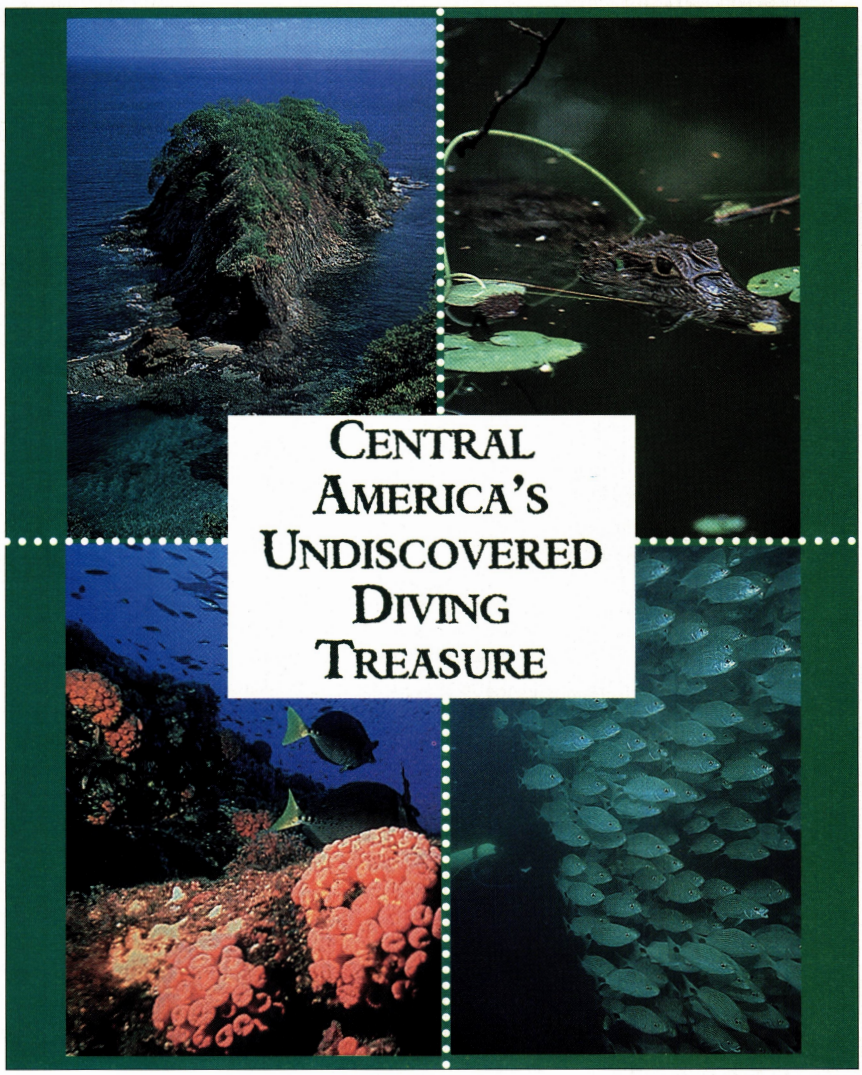
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CALENDAR

May 1996
Nha Trang, Vietnam



Join the Dive Travel editorial team for exploratory diving in Vietnam.

Khan Hoa province offers exciting opportunities. Diving here is reported to be similar to some of the better areas in the Philippines. Our editorial team and eight other divers will travel to Khan Hoa to research a feature story aboard the live-aboard dive vessel Song Sai Gon, *a 100-foot, refitted Chinese junk. Price: $2,225 pp dbl occ., includes all meals, dives and tranfers in Nha Trang.*

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Undersea Expeditions, *the gay scuba and snorkel travel specialists, announce a gay/lesbian live-aboard trip to Papua New Guinea. Besides the sail aboard the dive boat Chertan, the tour includes a sightseeing trip to the Highlands. Price: $2599, includes all meals and diving.*

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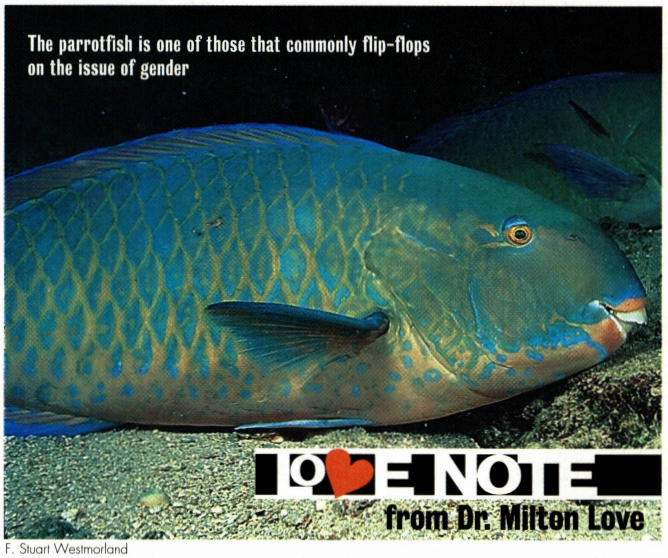
minute, we think it's an important gesture."

And through this gesture, Cove's shop is educating divers by including the removal of the hooks in their popular group shark dives.

But this isn't the first time Cove has been involved in the protection of sea life. He and other politically active Bahamanians were recently successful in reaching a compromise with government officials regarding longline fishing practices. This longline technique was a detriment to the fragile ecosystem supporting sharks, and many were being killed. The compromise makes longlining illegal without a permit. Obtaining a permit means appearing before the Cabinet and, ultimately, approval from the Governor General. Since most Cabinet members oppose longlining as a matter of principle, getting approval for a permit is a difficult, if not impossible, task.

The Coves and their fellow Bahamians have made the fight to protect the ocean and its inhabitants, even its most feared inhabitants, their own. Their shark dentistry program may be only a gesture, but it's the kind of gesture that can make a lot of difference multiplied by community of divers.

IF YOU need any more proof that an itch can drive you crazy, consider that a number of bony fishes have been observed chaffing against the abrasive skin of sharks, apparently in an attempt to rid themselves of parasites. Large schools of rainbow runners (*Elegatis bipinnulata*) for example, have been known to converge on prowling silky sharks, dart in, and rub against the sides of the shark. Curious and very daring behavior for a fish that makes up part of the silky shark's diet.



F. Stuart Westmorland

SEX! SEX!

Fish that change sex, that is, and the Marine Biologists who love them

So, how do you like being the new hot-shot columnist for Dive Travel?

Well, it's great if you use the right frame of reference.

And what's that?

If you compare it to losing a limb to gaseous gangrene.

And your topic for this issue is...?

Fish that change sex.

Aren't you concerned about your readers' sensibilities?

Have you seen what's presented on daytime talk shows lately?

Touché.

A remarkable number of fish species change sex. Wrasses, parrotfishes, gobies, some basses, just a whole bunch of them start out heading down Life's Highway in one direction, then make a U-turn and try the other side of the street.

For a majority of sex-changing fish species, individuals start out as females and later become males. Now, this is not just some cosmic putdown of us guys. The bottom line is that, for most species, it's better to have more females than males. Females make eggs, and eggs are relatively hard to produce. Sperm, on the other hand, is cheap. One male can generate enough to fertilize the eggs of lots of females. And because there is a greater and greater chance for animals to die as they grow older, having a bunch of females in the early years increases the chances for beaucoup young.

Some of these animals change sex when they reach a certain age, others do it in response to some outside stimuli. The tropical cleaner fish, *Labroides dimidiatus*, is a nice example of the latter behavior. A male Labroides will set up territory on a coral head and a number of females will live within it. Males patrol the boundaries of their little kingdoms, keeping out other males. A male also spends a lot of his time going from female to female making aggressive

Wow! Don't miss a single issue! Especially Summer '96 featuring
- *Africa*
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and lots more... Plus more great stuff all through 1996! Holy Smoke, maybe you better just subscribe!

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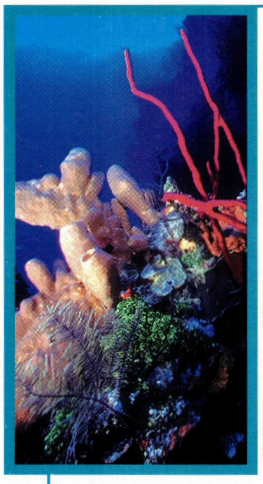


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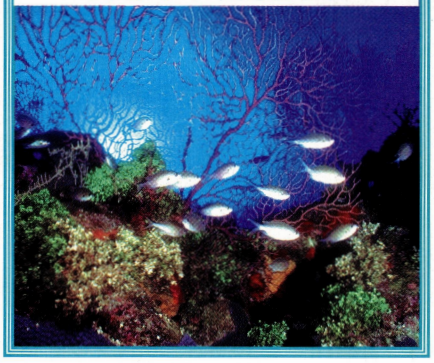
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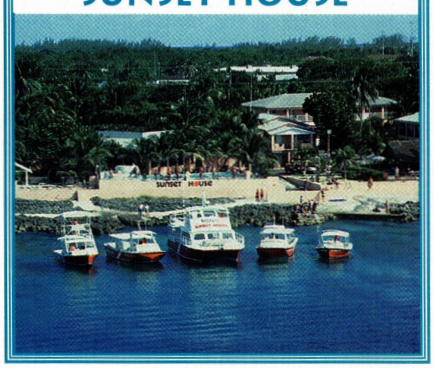
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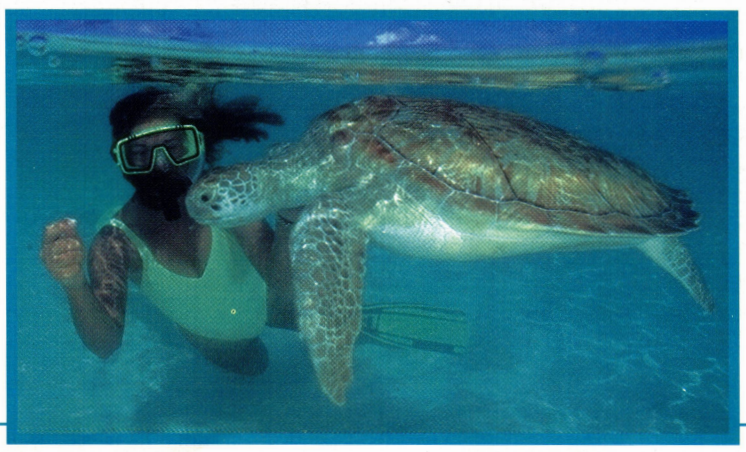


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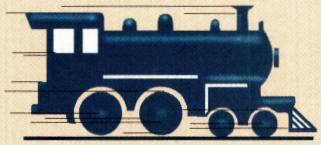
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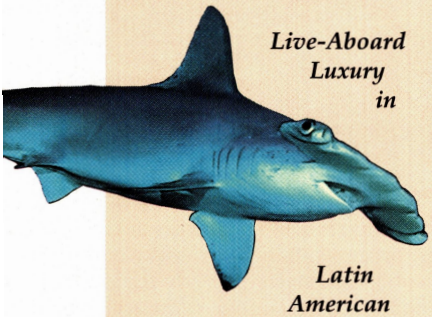
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displays, with the females backing down in response. The larger females may do the same thing to smaller females, thus dominating them. When the male dies, the largest (and dominant) female often changes sex. Within about two hours, this female starts acting like a male and within one to four days, the animal really is a male.

Some of the most interesting sex changers are simultaneous hermaphrodites; they may be both sexes at the same time. The zebra goby, found mostly from Southern California southward into Mexico, is a spiff example. Zebras are tiny fish, just an inch or so long, that live on shallow reefs and make their homes in split-level barnacle shells and the like. Individuals can be female-biased (they contain mostly ovarian, but some testicular tissue), some male-biased (mostly testes, but some ovary, don't you know), and some pure female. For unknown reasons, zebras don't seem to come in pure males. Simultaneous hermaphrodites do not usually fertilize themselves, probably because they don't respect themselves the next morning.

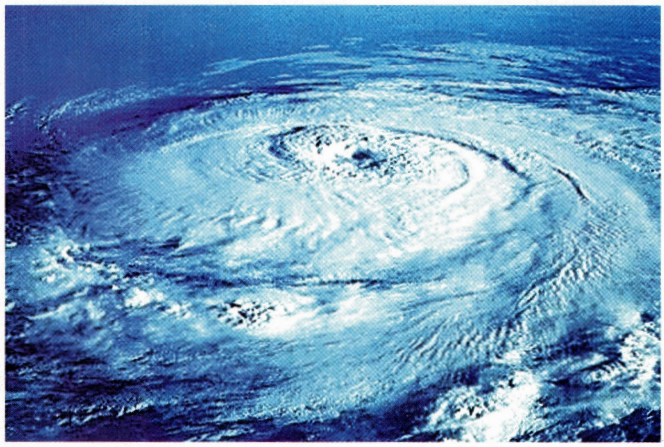
However, one functional hermaphrodite, *Rivulus marmoratus*, the mangrove rivulus, does fertilize itself, apparently with something approaching gusto. Rivulus is a small, brackish-water species, found in Florida and around the Caribbean. If you keep a rivulus in an aquarium, all by itself, in a little while it will start producing eggs that hatch into juveniles. This seems to show that the animal is fertilizing itself.

"But," you might say, showing the keen intellect for which you are justly famous, "perhaps that fish had stored sperm from another rivulus and was just using it up." Not bad. The clincher occurs when you take one of the newly hatched ones and raise it alone in another tank (who thinks up these cruel and unusual scientific isolation-tank experiments, anyway?). When it grows up (never having been in contact with another rivulus—I know, I know, too cruel), it too, starts producing fertilized eggs and little fish.

Ain't nature grand?

—by Milton Love

The most venomous marine animal known is not the sea snake, but the deadly sea wasp. Don't bother keeping an eye to the sky when you're at the beach, sea wasp is a nickname for the box jellyfish (*Chironex fleckeri*) common in the waters of northern Australia from November to April.



EYE TO EYE

The 1995 hurricane season was the worst in a long while, but don't cross the Caribbean off your list

The 1995 hurricane season can be described in one word: doozy. Reports of the Caribbean islands reduced to shambles flooded the media and scared many would-be travelers right out of their bermuda shorts.

With the 1996 travel season on the horizon, the Caribbean may suffer a different type of devastation: cancellation of travel plans to the area due to fear. Is it safe? Which islands were affected last year? What is the likelihood it could happen again?

In reality, the Caribbean future is so bright it ought to wear shades. In many cases, the destruction was not as widespread as some media pictures painted it. St. Thomas and St Martin are the only two islands in the Caribbean that are not expected to receive tourists in a normal fashion for the winter season this year. According to the Sea Trade Ltd. dive shop on St. Thomas, underwater damage was minimal with sea fans and sponges suffering most of the effects. Deeper diving has been left literally untouched. Though other islands, such as Antigua, Puerto Rico and St. Kitts and Nevis, had significant to moderate damage, most tourist establishments are

functional. And don't forget, this was one of the most active hurricane seasons since 1933.

According to government weather agencies, whether a hurricane will strike land is difficult to predict. Thus far, Professor William Gray of the University of Colorado has made the most reliable predictions of hurricane activity from season to season. He predicted that the 1995 hurricane season would be 16 tropical storms, with nine becoming full-blown hurricanes. The reality: 13 tropical storms, seven hurricanes. Pretty close.

There are scads of ways to track the hurricane activity for a given year. One unparalleled source that we have tapped into is the internet. With access to a computer, modem and the internet, you're set. There are many sites to see and explore when looking for up-to-the-minute hurricane information (See box below). They can be reached directly, or through the address for the Caribbean Internet Service Corp.—Hurricane Info. This site encompasses everything you ever wanted to know about hurricanes and more, in one shot, including updated predictions from the hurricane guru Professor William Gray. For those who haven't mastered the fine art of surfing the net yet, tune into the Weather Channel for updated information (check your local cable company for channel), or write or call the National Hurricane Center at:

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Storm on the Net

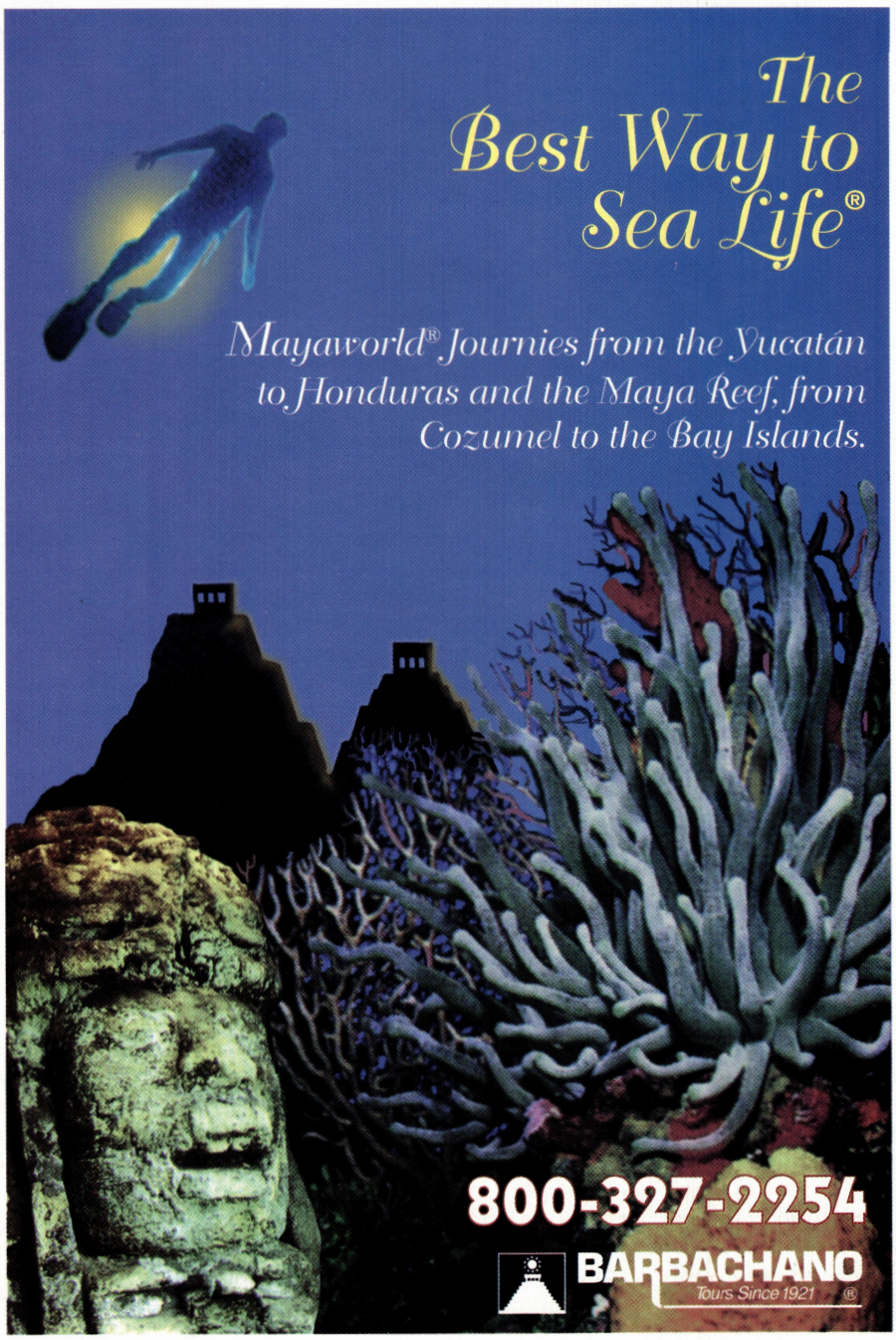
The following internet addresses should be of use in your ongoing search for the perfect storm.

Hurricane Info:
http://www.caribe.net/hurrican.html
Federal Emergency Management Agency:
http://www.fema.gov/fema/trop.html
WeatherNet Tropical Weather Page:
http://cirrus.sprl.umich.edu/wxnet/tropical.html
National Centers For Environmental Prediction (NCEP) and the National Hurricane Center (NHC):
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Christmas is over and you finally returned the ugly ties, bad cologne and the electronic organizer that you can't figure out how to use. What do you do with the windfall? Buy some...



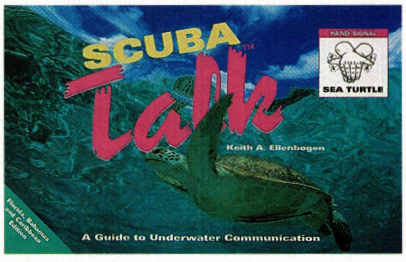
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IT'S NOT EASY BEING GREEN The travel industry uses the word "green" to signify eco-consciousness, but there's another way in which green pertains to the diving world.

Seasickness. Hanging over the side of the boat, plagued by gut-wrenching nausea, your otherwise happy dive buddy can start to take on a greenish hue. Or perhaps it's you with the big green monster on your back.

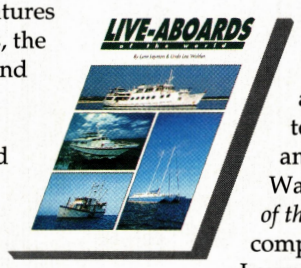
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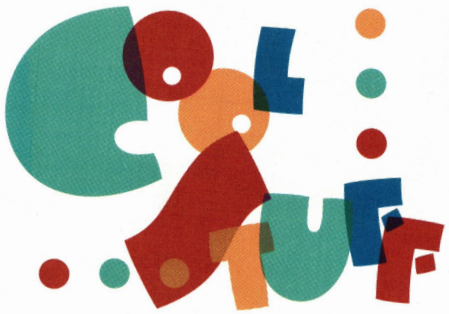
LIVE-ABOARDS OF THE WORLD If live-aboard diving is a not-so-distant consideration, or you're the live-aboard type already, but just need a little more info on your next area of interest, consult *Live-Aboards of the World*.

This tome opens with general information—history of the boats, who live-aboard diving is best suited for, equipment, accommodations, crew and amenities. Volume I features the Bahamas, the Caribbean, and Central and South America, and includes details on specific boats and operators in the given area, the basic need-to-knows for an educated selection.



Written by live-aboard globetrotters Lynn Laymon and Linda Lee Walden, *Live-Aboards of the World* ($20) is comprehensive. Laymon and Walden have traveled extensively as vacationing divers, worked as group leaders and tour guides, dive crew, and eventually writers and photographers, and now they're passing their considerable knowledge and expertise on to you.

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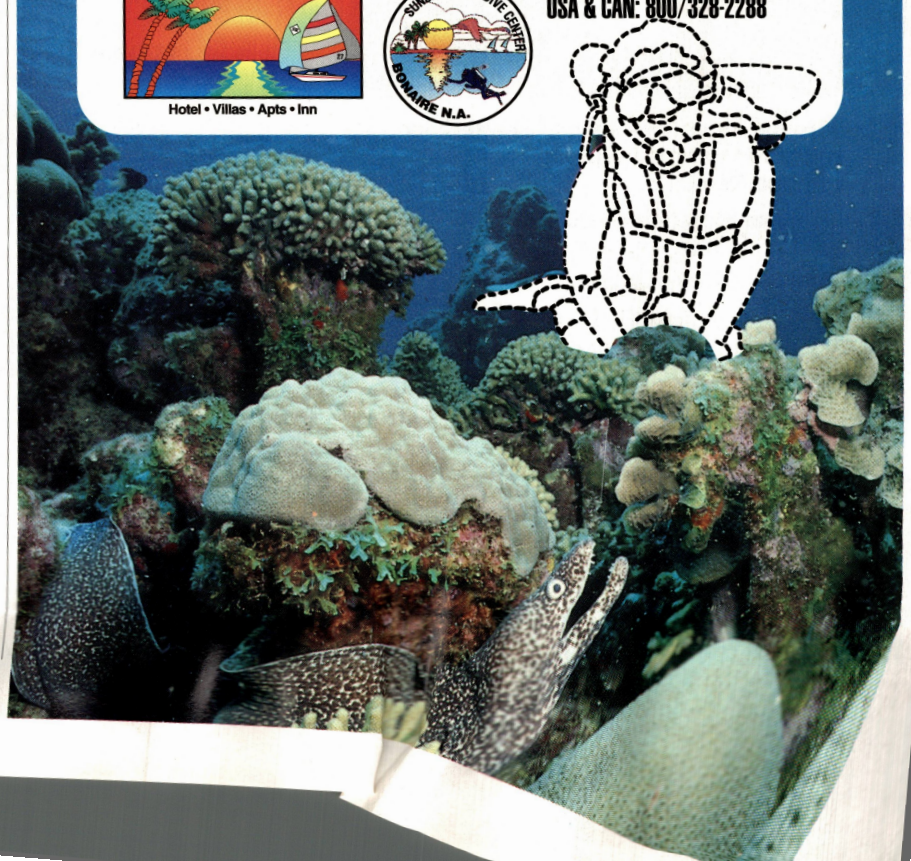
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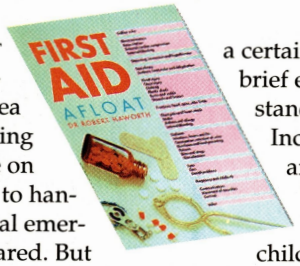


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Cool Stuff



First Aid Afloat

Enduring a medical emergency at sea is a lot more terrifying than managing one on land. The best way to handle a marine medical emergency is to be prepared. But let's be frank, most of us are boneheads when it comes to the preparation details. Help's on the way.

First Aid Afloat, from Best Publishing ($28), is a guide for traveling divers with little or no formal training as a caregiver. Written by sailor/physician, Dr. Robert Haworth, the book guides the novice through the unexpected with helpful hints like Haworth's golden rules. These 11 gems explain just what a first-aid provider should do in a certain situation in brief easy-to-understand terms. Included ailments are seasickness, bites, stings, emergency childbirth, fractures, allergies, bleeding, food poisoning and diarrhea. To make it even easier, all instructions are accompanied by informative photo sequences.

Haworth comes highly recommended in both sea-going and medical fields, and has even been awarded several medals for bravery in sea rescues. His ideas, it would seem, have been thoroughly field tested.

Best Publishing Company
Phone: (800) 468-1055
Fax: (520) 526-0370

Not Just for Cameras Anymore



Knowledge of UV damage has many people wondering how to preserve not just their skin, but their peepers. Eyestrain can be a big part of diving, especially the tandem topside attractions like beach-basking, or a boat ride over reflective water. The camera gurus at Nikon are stepping in to help.

Nikon offers a whole line of eyewear featuring GX (glare excluded) polarized lenses—good for fishing, boating or beach excursions. Spokespeople from Nikon say, the GX Polarized lens "virtually eliminates intense light and surface glare.... It's ideal for use in all water sport environments." Nikon GX lens eyewear comes in five different styles, in black or tortoise.

For boat excursions, whale-watching and so on, when the eyes need a little help, the new Nikon 7 x 50 IF Sports & Marine Series binoculars are the ticket. The series includes standard and compass models—both are waterproof, fogproof and shock resistant. Nikon eyewear and binoculars—just what the opthalmologist ordered.

Nikon
Phone: (800) NIKON-US

Change-A-Robe

One of the most vexing tasks in diving is changing in and out of wetsuits, dive skins and bathing suits comfortably and discreetly on a crowded boat or public beach.

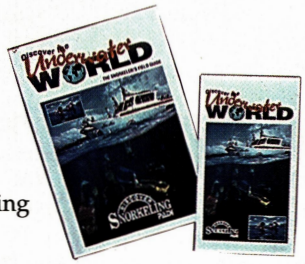
Sympathizing with the diver's plight, Creative Designs introduces Change-A-Robe. This thick, terry cloth, poncho-like robe is ideal for divers—slips easily on and off, is toasty warm after a long, chilly dive. It features a full hood, large outside pockets for storing clothing before and after a dive and a scoop neck. The Change-A-Robe II is specially designed to put on without standing up, made with disabled atheletes and wheelchair users in mind.

Change -A-Robe has already enjoyed a modicum of fame. The cast and crew of "Baywatch" just ordered robes from Creative Designs. And here we thought they showed it all (or almost all)....

Change-A-Robes come in several colors and sizes, and can be personalized with logos or names. Price: $59.95, plus handling.

Creative Designs
Phone/Fax: (209) 523-3166

Discover Snorkeling



Discover the Underwater World through PADI's snorkeling video, it's an opportunity to introduce non-diving friends or family to the fun and fascination of life beneath the surface without intimidating them with piles of scuba gear, tables and computers, in fact, without even getting them wet.

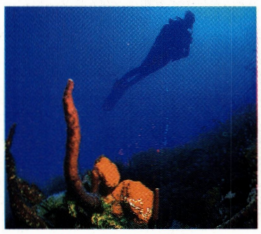
This 25-minute video features information on equipment, technique and skill demonstrations, interspersed with film clips from exotic vacation destinations where snorkelers can really strut their stuff and get a taste for the beautiful world underwater—the Florida Keys, Cayman Islands, Bahamas and Hawaii.

A companion piece, a 24-page snorkeler's field guide, details fish, invertebrates, flora and fowl of nine different snorkeling spots, from a freshwater lake to the Indopacific. Handy colored drawings make identification simple. And the book's small, too—it fits neatly between your pajamas and extra pair of shorts in your suitcase.

Nearly 5 million Americans consider themselves active snorkelers and for a fairly sizeable percentage of them snorkeling leads them inevitably to the world of scuba. Is there someone in your home or office who'd like to be in that group? The video is great warm-up for the real experience.

Video and field guide are available at the 3,000 PADI retail establishments worldwide. For a location near you, contact:
PADI, (800) 729-7234.

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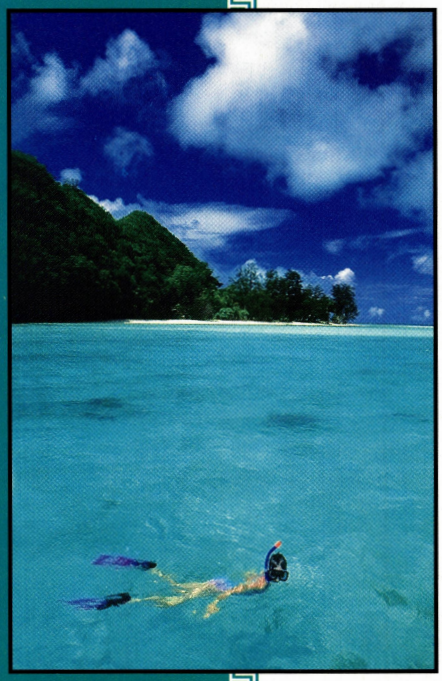
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Taveuni

Garden Island Resort: A small intimate resort with a friendly Fijian staff, excellent restaurant and bar, offering great value and outstanding diving. Dive the world- renowned Rainbow Reef — Fiji's ultimate destination. Stunning soft corals, dramatic walls and fabulous fish life with the added bonus of warm, clear tropical waters provide an unforgettable experience. Call **800-928-3757** for more information.

Kadavu

Dive Kadavu—Matana Resort: Vanua Vinaka, Vanua Ni Marau — Good Happy Place To Stay! Tropical gardens, coconut fringed sandy beach. 3 DIVES DAILY. Exclusive sites — Yellow Wall, Blue Tang, Evil Trench and many more, all within ten minutes of the resort in our fully equipped dive boats. Village Visits, Sailboards, Paddleboards, Sea Kayaks, Treks. Special prices for groups. **Phone: 011-679-311780, Fax: 011-679-303860**

Beqa Lagoon

Scubahire Ltd./Beqa Divers: Beqa Lagoon, discovered by Dave Evans, founder of Beqa Divers, is famous for its soft corals. A burst of brilliant colors, Beqa Lagoon is home to the only wreck dive in southern Fiji. Reef cod and coral trout roam the canyon-like gutters between coral heads while large pelagics hunt the reef on the periphery of the diver's vision. Deluxe diving at a budget price. For reservations and additional information: **800-928-3757**

Namena

Moody's Namena: If you really want to get away from it all, try Moody's Namena, a remote island getaway surrounded by the Namena Barrier Reef. With 30 miles of walls, pinnacles and caves to explore, the reef is just minutes from your own private hideaway. There are never more than ten guests at this secluded resort which covers less than 10 of its 110 acres. For further details, call **800-928-3757**.

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The good life beckons after a day of intense diving

Resort Report

Palm Royale Cairns

Comfort and nature's wonder down under—it's all about contrasts at Palm Royale

As the scarlet embers of sun disappear under the dark horizon, the day draws to a close—the perfect conclusion to a perfect day of diving on the world-class Australian Barrier Reef. Water of looking-glass clarity and a colorful array of submerged life to equal any tropical rainbow, it's all just there for the visual taking.

Stepping off the boat after a day of intense diving, the Palm Royale Cairns beckons, ready to pamper the pleasantly exhausted traveler with all the creature comforts of home. Only better.

It's all about contrast—a union of the best the natural and civilized worlds have to offer. The contemporary ease of the Palm Royale Cairns offers a rare haven where classic meets comfort among nature's wonders. The city of Cairns lies at the base of rainforest-covered mountains, so there are plenty of topside views to enjoy while lounging by one of the hotel's swimming pools, or sipping a morning cappucino on the terrace of your room.

One of the newest additions to the Cairns accommodations circuit, the Palm Royale offers the traveler a deluxe, four-star pillow on which to rest a weary head. Only you know how much you want to be pampered. Choose from 134 deluxe rooms, including air-conditioning and private balcony, or 16 executive suites.

Whatever the night calls for, the Palm Royale's got it in first class. Slip into a steamy bath and head for the sack, or dine alfresco on the balcony. If time and energy permit, try the delicious East-meets-West menu in the hotel's main restaurant, the Colossus. Mediterranean, Oriental, Australian—the cuisine caters to many palates with healthy alternatives. Colossus also serves a number of Australian boutique wines, alongside a wide selection of international vintages.

Let's talk diving. It's just about the best and most abundant in the Great Barrier Reef and the Palm Royale Cairns is a great place to learn. Quicksilver Diving Services offers on-site snorkeling and scuba training in the Palm Royale's Dive Training Pool. And now, Tusa Dive and the Palm Royale introduce another marriage of minds, combined diving and accommodation packages.

If diving isn't on your agenda, try the combined boutique and tour office, Looks Royale, for souvenirs and tours through Australia'a spectacular topside attractions. Or step over to Festival Faire, the shopping center next door, to work out at the Results Health and Fitness Centre.

Looking for the best of both worlds? Try Australia's Great Barrier Reef and the Palm Royale Cairns. Diver or no, there is plenty to do and see down under—in style.

—Juliette T. La Rue

Just the Facts

Palm Royale Cairns
Address: 7-11 Chester Court
Cairns Queensland, Australia
Phone: (011) 61-70-322-700
Fax: (011) 61-70-322-800

a/c—yes
Dive Shop—not on site, Quicksilver Diving Services
Pool—yes
Prices—Until March 31, 1997, six nights lodging, plus three days diving (two dives per day): AU$950 per person, single room; or AU$650 per person, twin share. Package includes airport transfers, all scuba equipment, hotel transfers, diving insurance, and lunch.
Rental Equipment—yes, all through Quicksilver Diving Services
Restaurant—yes, two on site plus room service
TV—yes
Transfers—included
Other —shopping, tours, snorkeling



Quicksilver Diving Services and Tusa Dive have teamed up with Palm Royale to bring you the best of the Barrier Reef



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Inn of Last Resort

A jewel of the western Caribbean set in the emerald hills of Roatan

Nestled into Roatan's emerald hills, the Inn of Last Resort opens onto a protected lagoon at the edge of the blue Caribbean. With 30 air-conditioned rooms this Bay Islands hotel is an intimate getaway for divers and non-divers alike.

Slip on in, the water's fine—average temperature is 80°—and so is the visibility, usually between 80 and 150 feet. Caribbean corals blanket the reefs, and there are numerous species of tropicals fanning their gaudy fins beneath the surface. Two 42-foot dive boats are ready to carry those who want to go to the second largest reef in the world just offshore. Or just step off the beach anytime—and as often—as you like; the shore diving is limited only by your dive tables. And for snorkelers, get instruction, equipment, and a close look at the coral in the protected lagoon. In addition, both divers and snorkelers can interact with dolphins in a protected marine environment nearby.

Just the Facts

U.S. Reservations and Information:
(800) 374-8181, (305) 893-2436
Direct Phone: (011 504) 45 1838
Fax: (011 504) 45 1848

a/c—yes
pool—no
TV—no
Restaurant/meals—yes, included
Prices—7 nights, including food, all diving, dbl occ: $695; 7 nights: all food, no diving, dbl occ: $595.
Airport transfers—yes, included
Dive shop—on premises, all equipment available for rent
Other activities—fishing, hiking, white-water rafting



Port Douglas Beaches

A personal vision makes for a great view of the beautiful Queensland coast

The owners of Port Douglas Beaches, Keith and Janet Mole, had a vision. Originally from England, Keith Mole retired from the stuffy life of banking and decided to resettle in Port Douglas where they became resort managers. Next door to where they worked was an empty lot. For a very long time the Moles dreamed of building a very special resort on the vacant land. As resort managers they knew how visitors to Port Douglas loved the uninterrupted beach views. Their dream was that each unit in their new development should be designed to have stunning ocean views, overlooking a swimming pool and spa, timber decks on each unit, spacious and luxurious living quarters.

In 1994. Port Douglas Beaches became a reality. And boy what a beautiful reality it is. Beaches, consist of 27 large two- and three-bedroom apartments. Each apartment offers superb accommodations, a traveler's home away from home. Each apartment has uninterrupted views of the ocean and four-mile beach, just yards away, European kitchens, dining room and living room areas. Lush tropical landscaping surrounds the resort which has been designed in the modern North Queensland tropical style.

But the most important vision is not what you see, but what you feel. And the real vision at Port Douglas Beaches is the caring and friendship they give to each and every guest.

—Joseph Grassadonia

Just the Facts

Port Douglas Beaches
P.O Box 56
Port Douglas, Australia
Phone: 011-61-70-99-5397
Fax: 011-61-70-99-5206

a/c—yes
Dive Shop—not on site, Quicksilver diving services and Poseidon.
Pool—yes
Rental Equipment—yes, through Quicksilver Diving Services and Poseidon
TV—yes
Phone—yes
Transfers—additional
Other—tours, snorkeling, shopping



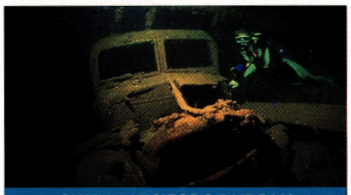
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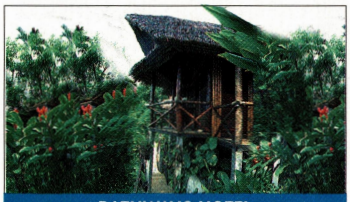
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Truk is superlative in many aspects of diving and overall vacationing. The Truk Visitor's Bureau invites you to explore the world-famous wrecks of the Japanese war machine of WWII. Discover why Truk is called the wreck diver's paradise. Explore and enjoy. For more information, call or write: **P.O. Box FQ, Moen, Truk FSM 96942. Ph: 011 (691) 330-4133; FAX: 011 (691) 330-4194.**



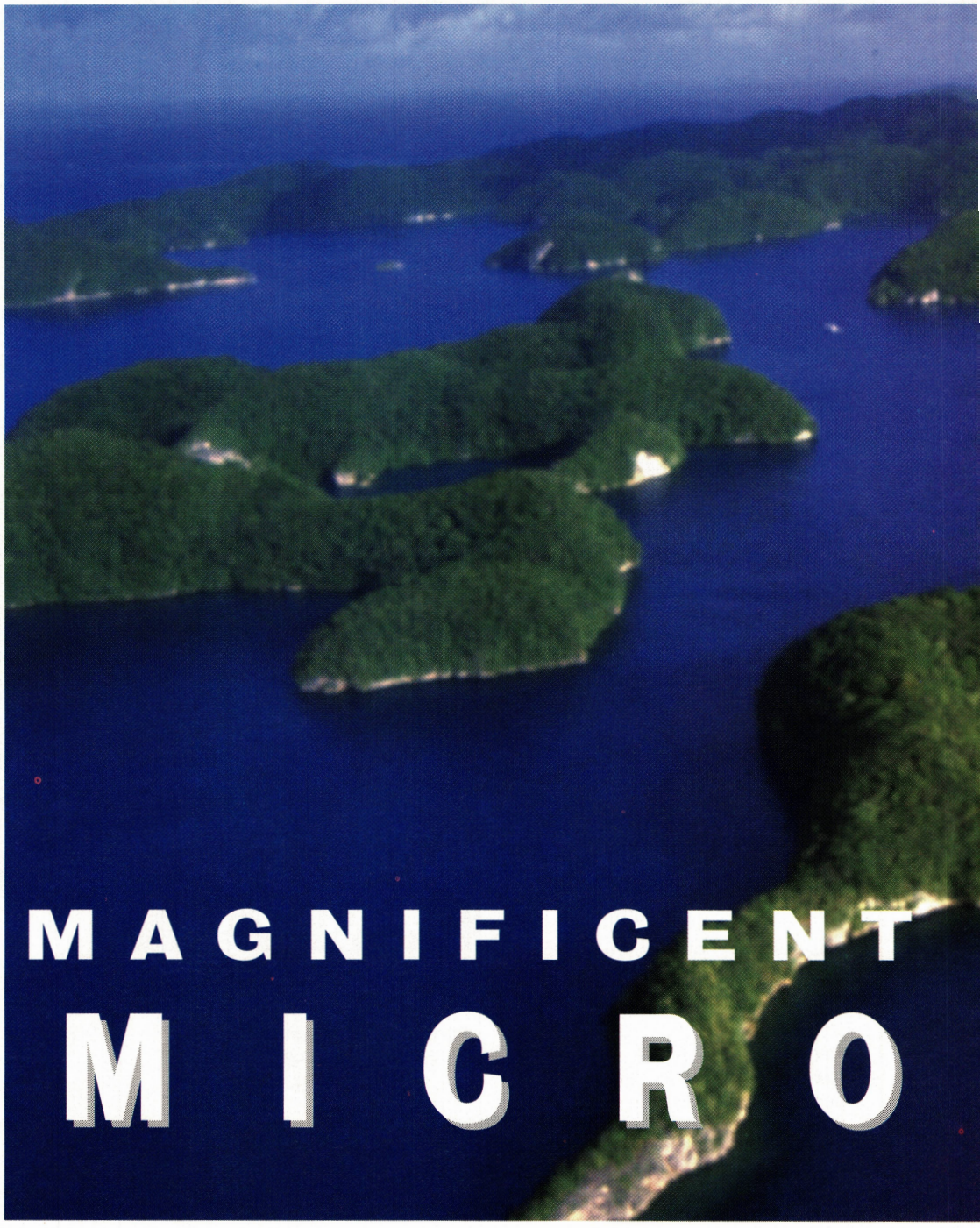
YAP STATE TOURISM OFFICE

Yap exceeds the four primary criteria for a diving destination—warm water, clear water, diverse marine life and living coral reefs. Dive steep reef dropoffs or gentle slopes, channel drifts or the protected confines of the harbor. See sharks, turtles fish, sunken ships and planes, rare shells and, of course manta rays! For more information: **Yap State Tourism Office, P.O. Box 36, Colonia, Yap 96943. 011-691-350-2298; FAX: 011-691-350-2571.**



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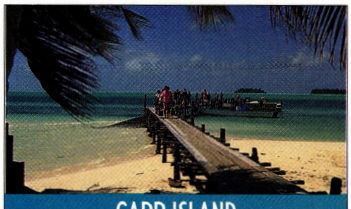
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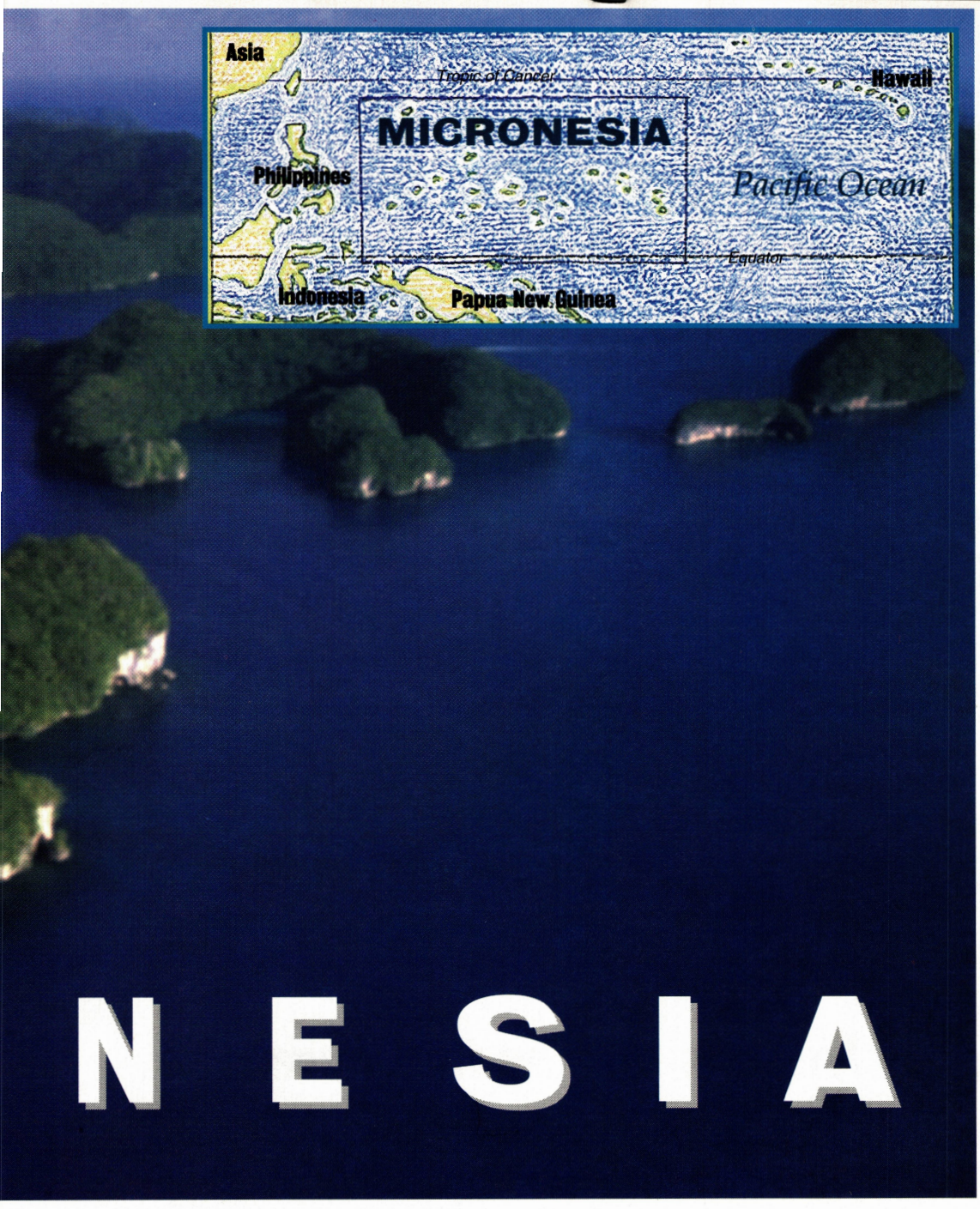
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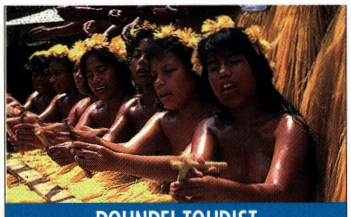
PALAU VISITORS AUTHORITY

Sea Palau... Blue Corner, Jellyfish Lake, Chandelier Cave, Ngemelis Dropoff, Blue Holes, World War II Wrecks... One of the seven underwater wonders of the world. For a brochure, or more information contact: **Palau Visitors Authority, P.O. Box 256, Koror, Republic of Palau 96940. Tel: (680) 488-2793 or 1930; FAX: (680) 488-1453 or 1725.**



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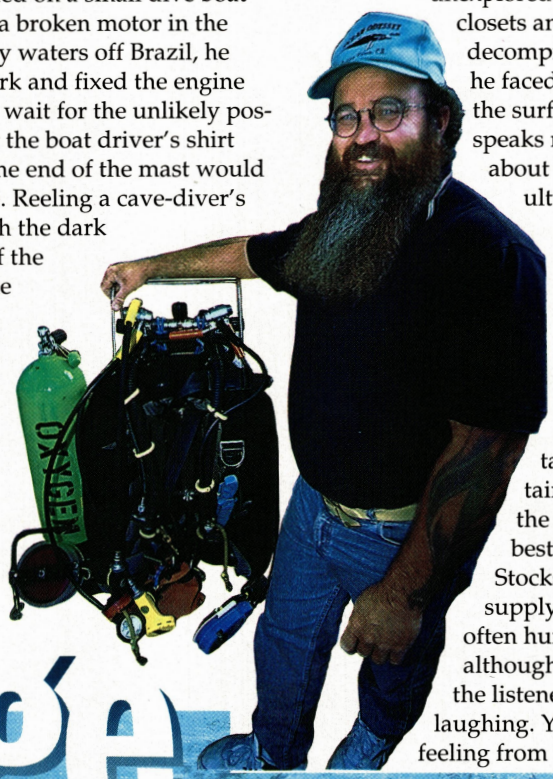
ADVENTURE

Risky Business: Diving Deep With T. Wings Stocks

by Susan Watrous

In a risky situation, T. Wings Stocks is definitely someone you'd want on your team.

Stranded on a small dive boat with a broken motor in the empty waters off Brazil, he went to work and fixed the engine rather than wait for the unlikely possibility that the boat driver's shirt affixed to the end of the mast would attract help. Reeling a cave-diver's line through the dark corridors of the wreck of the *Andrea Doria*, he weighed the amount of trimix in his tanks against the siren call of the unexplored corners and closets and the hours of decompression time he faced on his way to the surface. Stocks speaks realistically about death—the ultimate consequence for a mistake in the kind of diving he does—not diminishing the danger, but insisting on the importance of maintaining control of the situation. And best of all, Wings Stocks has an ample supply of dry and often humble humor, although he tends to let the listener do the laughing. You get the feeling from this burly



The Edge

TECHNOLOGY

Sometimes, all I need is the gas that I breath...

Are there designer gases in your future? Why would you want to breath anything but good old-fashioned air? Well, there may be better reasons than you think.

by Bret Gilliam

The practice of sport divers breathing oxygen-enriched air, commonly known as nitrox, has been around for well over a decade, but only in the last few years has interest made it a mainstream activity. Nitrox has a slightly higher oxygen percentage than regular air and can offer significant benefits if used correctly.

A little background is probably necessary here for those who have not had to open a diving text since their certification class. Normal atmospheric air contains approximately 21 percent oxygen and 79 percent nitrogen. (Yes, there are some other gases in air—for example, argon, hydrogen and CO2 and so on—but combined these barely make up 1 percent of the total mixture and are generally ignored in calculating a dive profile.) The principle behind nitrox is to elevate the oxygen percentage and effect a corresponding drop in the inert gas nitrogen which determines our controlling decompression status based on time and depth.

There are almost an infinite amount of nitrox mixtures, but the two most popular blends are 32 percent and 36 percent (reflecting the oxygen content of each). These two mixes were originally developed by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for diving scientists and became known as NOAA Nitrox I and II respectively. Nowadays the NOAA references have been largely dropped from the vernacular and mixes are referred to as EAN 32 or EAN 36. (EAN stands for enriched air nitrox with the oxygen fraction expressed as a number.)

Santa Cruz dive instructor that he could fix a rebreather, repair a broken boat motor, or calm a panicky diver with the same efficient finesse.

Not content with a quarter of a century as a scuba diver, and two decades as an instructor, Stocks has branched out to embrace new technologies and experiences. He uses trimix for the deep diving he does—on the wreck of the *Andrea Doria*, the *Triple Crown* wreck off Santa Barbara, California, diving the Gorda Banks off the coast of Baja, or plunging to wrecks in Puget Sound at a depth of 200–300 feet, just to name a sample. The *Andrea Doria*, on which Stocks has participated in three expeditions, was a 700-foot passenger ship of the Italia line that went down in July 1956 in the cold waters off New York.

At Ocean Odyssey, the dive shop and training center which he owns with his wife Ani, they offer nitrox and trimix training along with standard scuba instruction. And Ocean Odyssey is slated to be one of the first training centers for teaching the use of the Prism rebreathers. In fact, they hosted a prototype seminar for the Prism in 1995.



Stemware and china from the wreck of the *Andrea Doria*

Although Wings and Ani Stocks have been settled in Santa Cruz, California since 1980, they made their way here from the Midwest. Wings' mother was a senior lifeguard and water safety instructor in northern Indiana near the Great Lakes, and he grew up swimming, camping, hiking—comfortable in nature. "I always felt like I was full of adventure," he says. "When I was about nine or ten I wanted to ride a bike out to California."

He didn't ride the bike, but after a stint in the Marine Corps in Vietnam, these high school sweethearts landed in the Golden State, feeling "like we had finally arrived home." They live in Santa Cruz, with their two sons, ages 17 and 20. The interview was conducted at Ocean Odyssey in December 1995.

Dive Travel: Just one of the many fascinating things you've done in the last five years is dive the wreck of the *Andrea Doria*. You went in 1991, '92 and again in '95. Tell us about



So what does all this mumbo jumbo mean to today's diver? Well, nitrox can dramatically increase no-decompression times and shorten the necessary surface intervals between dives. It's not uncommon to gain double or triple the allowable bottom time using a particular nitrox mix matched to the diver's planned depth. With a bit of planning a nitrox diver could literally dive all day in depths of 60–80 feet and never run into required decompression. Even using the basic EAN 32 mix, divers will be able to chalk up a major advantage on their air breathing brethren during a typical two- or three-dives-a-day schedule.

Another use of nitrox has been to dive EAN as "air" in conjunction with standard air tables or dive computers. This incorporates the physiological advantage of breathing the mixture which contains 11 percent more oxygen and less nitrogen. This provides a significant safety factor since the divers' tables or computers assume he or she is breathing standard air. This has appealed to divers who may not be in the best shape, divers over 40, or anyone making a particularly arduous dive—in colder water, for example, or when a higher work load is expected. Several experts have suggested that if this practice became widespread, the probability of decompression sickness would be virtually eliminated for most divers.

Although subjective benefits are reported by many divers, nitrox should not be considered some miracle elixir. It is reliably reported that divers feel less fatigued at the end of a diving day and that headaches are eliminated. Anyone who has notched a full day of diving from a liveaboard knows the feeling of pleasant exhaustion that hits you right about the time dessert is served. Nitrox divers on the same schedule seem to have more energy (for whatever activities) and can at least enjoy the

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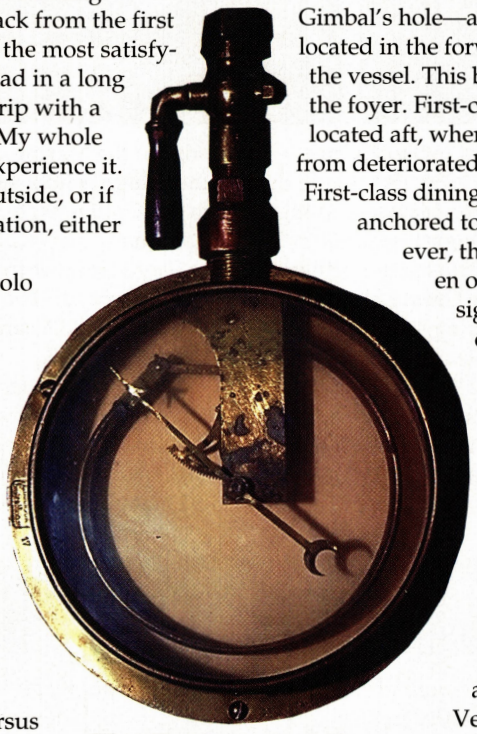
that experience.

Stocks: For most people, diving the *Doria* seems unattainable. During the '70s and early '80s, I would have considered it an extremely remote possibility for me as well. However, with cave and deep diving luring me into more challenging profiles, the balance of risk moved in my favor—mainly due to equipment, technology, experience and training.

When I came back from the first trip, it was one of the most satisfying feelings I've had in a long time. I made the trip with a mission attitude. My whole goal was just to experience it. If I touched the outside, or if that led to penetration, either was fine.

I hit the water solo that first time. Because of last minute conflicts, I didn't have anybody that I felt comfortable diving with, let alone going inside the wreck with. I wasn't familiar with the people, the dive boat or the conditions. I trusted myself versus taking somebody else I didn't know who might aggravate the situation. I was able to do my own profiles successfully—we had three dives on the *Doria* that trip. Once the ground rules were laid, it was easy for me to adjust to them, knowing that I'm a very competent diver, I have a lot of experience, I evaluate constantly during the dive, and I would use survival tactics if the need arose. I was able to do that and have a successful trip.

On the first trip, we sent in biosketches of ourselves—how we could contribute to the common goal of deep penetration into this wreck, to go to areas that nobody had gone to before. The expedition was to survey and record the inside, and the deterioration of the wreck.



This antique brass valve is also from Stocks' collection of salvaged artifacts

I have seen this deterioration over the last five years. One of the bridges has fallen off and we're starting to get more water flow through the hull, because it's lying on its side. I'll tell you what, the *Doria* is vast. It swallows you up. The corridors are much bigger than this [he gestures to the inside of the trailer where we are sitting]. It's a 700-foot long vessel, the same as two-and-a-third football fields, resting on its side. You enter the first-class section of the boat at Gimbal's hole—a loading door—located in the forward third of the vessel. This brings you into the foyer. First-class china is located aft, where it has fallen from deteriorated storage closets. First-class dining tables are still anchored to the deck; however, the tops have fallen off. An eerie sight. Second class you enter on the promenade deck, travel horizontally down the fallen stairways, then move through the passageway, or deeper across the deck. Very disorienting. Everything is 90-degrees from normal.

DT: Sounds dangerous as well as disorienting.

Wings: Any time you dive extreme environments, it can be potentially hostile. You've got to know your own limits with this kind of diving. If people have conducted similar profiles before, you go by their description, but again when you're a hundred miles offshore, things can happen. You've also got to remember the *Andrea Doria* went down for one reason: It got rammed. It sank in the shipping lanes. So there's always the possibility of a collision, either while you're aboard the boat, or in the water. Also conditions can change within a matter of minutes, from flat glass to really gnarly weather with heavy fog where you can't see vessels, but you hear them...things like that. It's different from our coast here, because they have a vast continental shelf. The abyssal plain drops off, so they have a lot of different types of currents with no set pattern. There are currents on the wreck—you can get blown off the wreck. It's quite exciting. And it can be very brutal.

DT: Brutal how?

Stocks: Loss of life. On the trip in 1992, I lost a good friend out there, a very fine individual.

DT: How sad....

Stocks: Unfortunately, it can happen. We all felt pretty bad, there's no doubt about it, but we all realize it could happen to any one of us. I knew something had happened as I was to be the last guy out, to pull the reel, however, as I came outside the wreck, his decompression tanks were still attached to the promenade deck. Seriously concerned, I reentered the *Andrea Doria* and searched his last known position, putting myself ten minutes over my maximum bottom time and dangerously low on gas. The three-hour decompression time was mentally very difficult. It was night, and I had little or no communication with fellow divers other than by slate.

What happens often times is you may all penetrate the same access hole, but you have different missions. His mission was to stay at 200 feet, back in second class, to get to the china closets here [he points at the deck plans]. The pressure from that, plus I found out later he was dyslexic, so left-hand, right-hand, he may have become confused. We found him 50 feet back in the wrong direction. The next day we pulled his body and brought it home.

His survivors' attitude was, 'people die on this wreck, why don't they restrict it?' People die on Everest and they don't restrict the mountain. It's a personal choice. Once you have evaluated the risk and you assume the risk, you have to train for it, and then go for it. You evaluate what's going on and you're able to call a dive at any time. I think that's fair.

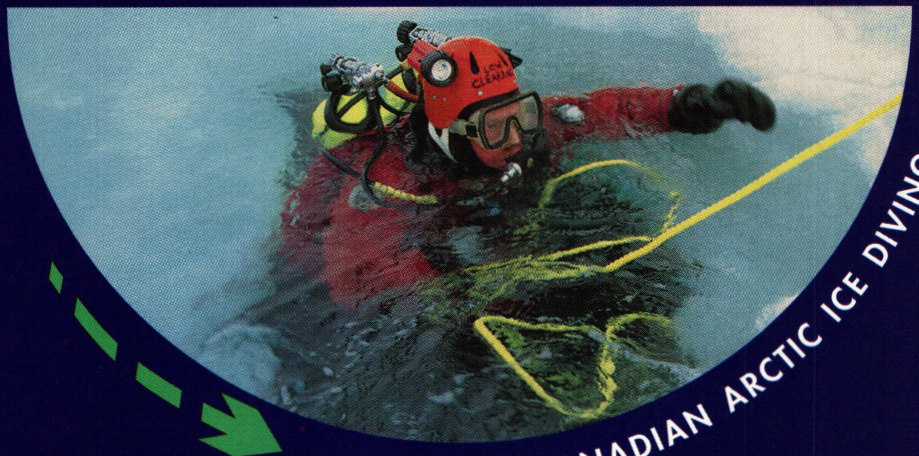
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I'm an optimistic realist, if there is such a thing. Death is a part of life and currently unavoidable. That's the reality. If we can die doing what we enjoy, that's a great call. I guess that's the optimistic part. How the call is made and by whom, I'm not sure. Tomorrow is another day, another dive. You do your best to avoid problems, but you and your family must be prepared to accept a worst case scenario. The thrill of victory, the agony of defeat—if you're not prepared to accept either one, you probably shouldn't be doing it.

DT: What are some of the important aspects of psychological preparedness in diving a situation like the *Andrea Doria*?

Stocks: Technical diving requires not an arrogant attitude, but a confident one. You have to have a realistic judgement of your own abilities. Every deep dive is developed with a mission-oriented approach. There are no casual deep dives. You need to plan, evaluate, seek alternatives, play possible scenarios, like what are you going to do if.... Be disciplined, be confident, be truthful to yourself.

As a friend of mine says, the deeper you go, the higher the risk. However, if you offset that risk with additional training, redundant equipment and serious planning, then the overall percentage of increase is very minimal. If you don't, then you're asking for defeat.

There have been hundreds of successful dives on the *Andrea Doria*. When divers make the decision to undertake a dive of this magnitude, the responsibility is squarely on their shoulders. Remember, there is no one making you dive the *Andrea Doria*. It's a decision you make for yourself, period. People have paid the money, taken the boat ride, and felt like today's not the day. They didn't dive the whole trip. Sometimes the *Doria* will help you make that choice due to conditions—she lets you in when she wants to. You need to develop a sixth sense. Hell, I've called dives for no apparent reason, just because it didn't feel right.

"The thrill of victory, the agony of defeat—if you're not prepared to accept either one, you probably shouldn't be doing it."

DT: Isn't that one of cave divers' cardinal rules: Any one can call a dive at any time for any reason—

Stocks:—without fear of recrimination. That's the important part. So when the thumbs up sign is called, we're outta here, it isn't answered like, "Why?" It's matched with a thumbs up—understand, will comply. Move out of there. That's not common in recreational diving.

DT: What kind of training should one make for this type of trip?

Stocks: Cave training is good preparation for wreck penetration and vice versa. Unfortunately wreck penetration classes are few and far between. Qualified and experienced instructors are just as rare. There are people who hold certificates, but upon close inspection—which most clients don't do—most don't practice what they preach. That's

The Edge

Nitrox, *continued from page 27*

movie that evening on the VCR.

So what's the downside? Not much really. Because nitrox does contain more oxygen than regular air, there are depth limits that must be strictly observed to avoid any effects of oxygen toxicity. And there are time limits associated with breathing oxygen at certain partial pressures. The good news is that the time limits take care of themselves if the diver remains within the no-decompression profiles. And with EAN 32 the depth limit is 130 feet, the limit to which most sport divers are already conditioned. As the oxygen percentage is increased, the depth limit is correspondingly reduced. For instance, EAN 36 should not be dived below 110 feet.

Some years ago, nitrox was considered unsuitable for sport divers. However, with the proliferation of use and virtually every training group, from PADI to the YMCA, endorsing it, any remaining dissidents have pretty much reversed their opposition.

The lion's share of nitrox training is still expected to be conducted by the Big Three of advanced specialty curriculum: American Nitrox Divers Inc. (ANDI), the International Association of Nitrox and Technical Diving (IANTD), and Technical Diving International (TDI). These three agencies have over 5,000 instructors worldwide teaching nitrox and other "technical" programs in a variety of languages.

If you're interested, seek out a certification course in nitrox use. Typically it can be completed in one day, costs vary from $75 to $150 depending on locale and whether open water dives are included. The program will explain in detail the aspects of dive planning with tables or computers, benefits and risks associated with nitrox, analysis of the gas, and guidelines for obtaining fills and use with other equipment.

Standard regulators, tanks and valves can be used with nitrox, as long as the oxygen content does not exceed 40 percent. As noted, the most popular mixes are EAN 32 and 36, so most divers will not need any special cleaning done to their regular gear. (Exceptions can occur for the cylinder and valve depending on how the mix is dispensed; you'll get more on these specifics in your class.)

Training and fills should be available just about anywhere in 1996. More and more resorts are coming on line. In Nassau alone, there are now three full-service nitrox facilities and several live-aboards have added it to their filling options.

Manufacturers are offering a series of programmable nitrox dive computers that can be set with oxygen percentages from the normal 21 percent to 50 percent, and in some cases all the way to pure oxygen. Check out the quality lines of Cochrane Consulting, Dive Rite and Uwatec for a good selection of affordable compact units with amazing download

Continued on page 32

why the NSS has made cave training available. NSS instructors dive what they teach. They realize that every dive is unique, therefore every emergency may require a unique solution—there is no one solution to every problem. Divers need to seek training that will challenge their current skills. Classes that make you work hard, think hard. Remember, training is a building block. The more blocks you have, the stronger the foundation. However, as all things wear or weaken, occasionally you need to strengthen the mortar, to keep everything cohesive, or replace the block. Once you have learned a skill, whose responsibility is it to keep it strong? Conveniently, most tech rigging is 75 to 80 percent compatible from cave training to wreck penetration, so little effort is needed to re-rig.

DT: How does the use of trimix figure into this equation?

Stocks: One of the things that has opened up this type of diving is trimix, the helium/oxygen/nitrogen mixtures. The first 10 or 15 years, these guys dove air on the *Andrea Doria*. Air gives you such a narcotic effect, whereas trimix clears up your head. But it's a much more complicated mix to dive.

Let's say you went on an air dive and a trimix dive to the same depth for the same amount of time. What happens is nitrogen is a thicker gas, so you won't have as long or as deep a decompression. Helium, because it's a fine gas, tends to be stored in your body, so you go to the same depth for the same amount of time, you'll start your decompression deeper, and you need other gases to decompress with. That means you're doubled up [with other tanks]. You're a little slower in the water, you're not as streamlined, however, with sufficient gas supplies and controlled breathing, movement is not a problem. Trimix makes people bolder than they would be on air. The effect of nitrogen is a slowing of the reflexes, dulling of the senses, and you can get paranoid real easily in deeper water. The paranoia tends to keep you honest, respectful of the depth. Whereas with trimix you feel like you're standing right here talking.

DT: You've trained a number of other divers in advanced techniques—using cave-diving equipment, trimix, and so on. What are the qualifications you look for in a person who wants advanced training?

Stocks: Variety of diving. Training is a good thing, but it doesn't replace experience. We look for strong water skills, a good history of diving experience, variety of exposures, a willingness to learn, and an attitude to succeed. And you have to have knowledge. Knowledge is book learning; training is skill building. You have to have good honest motivation. Why do you want to do this kind of diving? That's on one of my applications.

DT: What would be a great answer?

Stocks: Curiosity. Their current diving is leading them to deeper water or longer times, and a respect for the consequences. If it doesn't work right, do they understand the meaning. Remember, not all divers are seeking to dive the *Andrea Doria*. Some simply want to conduct a more efficient profile, stay a little longer, dive a little deeper. High-risk diving is not for everyone.

I've told people, 'You might be a

Continued on page 32

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***Nitrox,** continued from page 30*
capabilities to a PC for dive logging and printouts.

Used correctly, nitrox can expand the no-decompression window, or significantly increase safety by diving it as "air." No matter how you view your use of this technology, don't shortcut the path to proper training. Nitrox may prove to be a milestone in diving. Multi-level computers were initially met with controversy by those who predicted all sorts of accidents and nasty happenings for those divers who dared to abandon dive tables. Of course, the record of success proved the naysayers wrong, and now computers are standard equipment for the majority of divers.

Will nitrox enjoy a similar embrace from the diving public? It seems likely, considering the phenomenal growth in the last few years and its ever-widening availability. Check it out through your local dive store, or on your next dive vacation.

***Stocks,** continued from page 31*
legend in recreational diving, but this kind of diving is going to challenge your skills. This is equipment-intensive, knowledge-intensive, and then you've got environment to deal with. It's not how many dives you've had, it's how many dives you've had recently and the variety of experience that you have.'

Somebody who has a hundred dives off Cozumel is probably not a likely candidate for this type of training. However, if they abalone dive, and maybe they cave dive, maybe they've taken a PADI wreck diving course, or maybe they do some diving in the Great Lakes, high altitude occasionally, search and recovery, some compass work—now that person's getting a variety of experience that adds up to a base of knowledge. You get more out of a class if you come in with those skills than sitting down and doing all the paper and theory work extremely well, and then getting in the water and having a rough time.

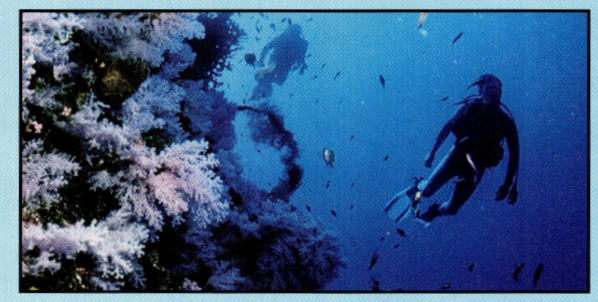
"It's not how many dives you've had, it's how many dives you've had recently and the variety of experience that you have."

DT: You made an interesting distinction between being confident about your abilities, and arrogance. It seems that being arrogant could be death.

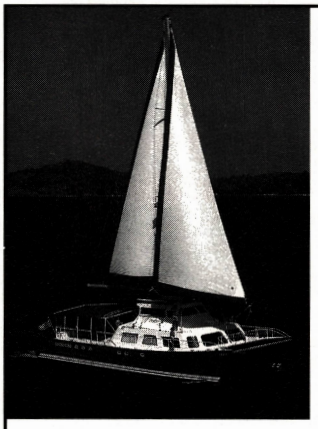
Stocks: It could be death. Not only for you, but for your team members as well. You've got to have confidence in your ability and in others' abilities as well. What you really have to do is keep control of the situation, because once you lose it, it is extremely difficult to regain.

It's very typical in cave diving that a lot of people take the classes, but only two percent will ever do any type of exploratory or expeditionary

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work. Maybe even less than that. About 98 percent are going into caves that have already been explored. For them, it's a challenge.

When I hear people talk about pushing the envelope, I wonder, are they talking about pushing THEIR envelope, or THE envelope? There is a big difference. A person who dives to 130 feet for 10 minutes can push theirs by hitting 140 for 15 minutes. How about the person who reads all about tech diving, buys the gear and heads off to prove they can push THE envelope. Natural selection works in mysterious ways sometimes.... But why grow old?

DT: Is that your attitude?

Stocks: No. I have too many dives coming up in the near future. I'm 46 today. The older you get, the more vulnerable you feel. I was probably pretty macho when I was younger, but I don't need to prove anything to anybody any more. I challenge myself, I don't challenge other people.

DT: Do you think extreme divers have a subliminal death wish?

Stocks: Honestly, I don't. Once you've taken the challenge and succeeded, there's always the thirst for new goals, the new thrill, something even more remotely impossible. Although impossible stuff is being accomplished every day, there are certain boundaries. Like 1000 feet is deep for a submarine, so it has to be really deep for a free-swimming human. But the challenge of being the first, of knowing that you've been where nobody else—or at least only a handful—has been before, the curiosity, the planning, the achievement. It gives you a sense of accomplishment.

For some, life must be getting boring. The trend today is to remove the human from the experience, although we proudly wear our t-shirt that proclaims everything we want our neighbors to think we've done. We stay at home and work, shop, eat, play games and watch it on the tube. This does remove a certain element of risk. I believe this removes you and me from the personal experience. A friend once said, 'Would you rather watch sex on TV, or participate in it yourself?' Gee, give me a second to think about it.

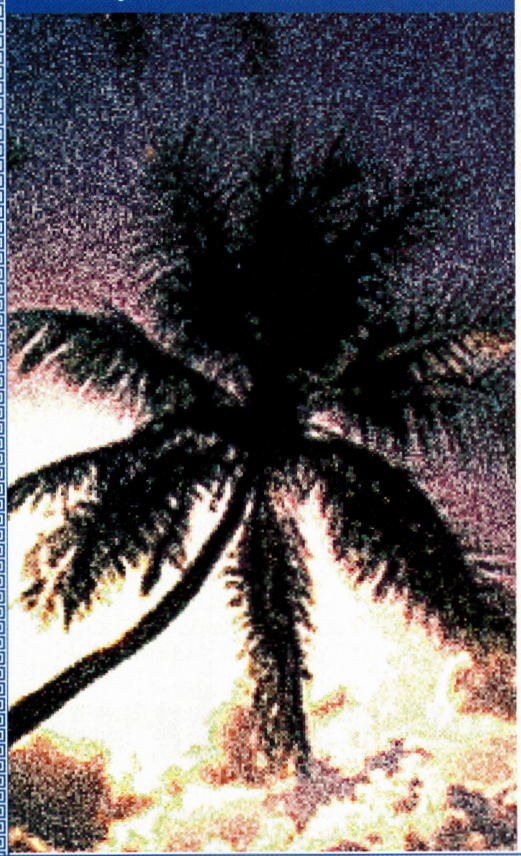
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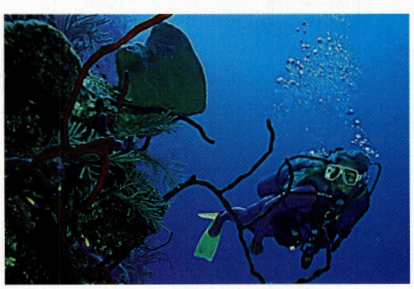
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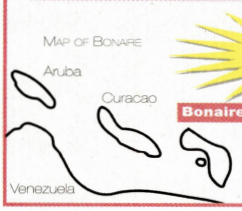
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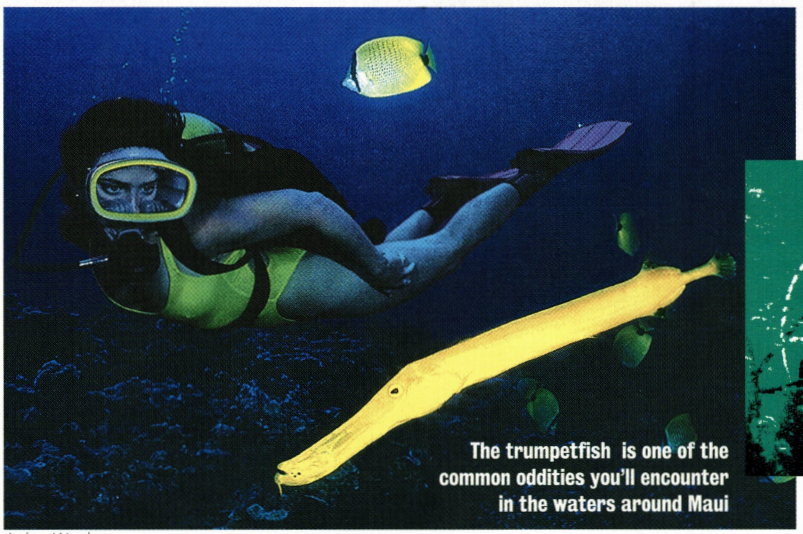
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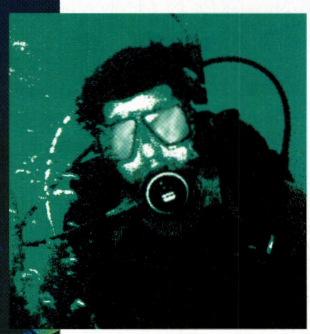
DESTINATION X

The Insider's Guide to **Maui**



The trumpetfish is one of the common oddities you'll encounter in the waters around Maui

Andrew Wood



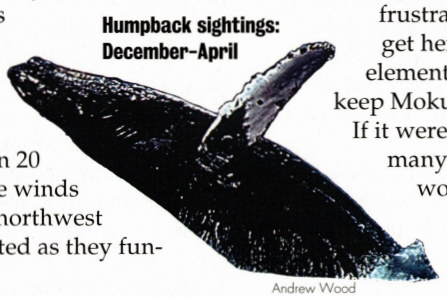
X-man's tour of personal favorites off the beaten path

X-man: Andrew Wood

The alarm wakes me from a dead slumber. It is still dark outside and just after five in the morning on Maui. I need to be at the boat ramp in Lahaina in another hour. I am hoping to take advantage of one of the rare days in Hawaii when the trade winds aren't blowing. Our plan is to cross the Pailolo Channel to a small islet between Maui and Molokai.

At a distance, the islet of Moku Hooniki looks like a turtle facing Molokai from a mile away. Only about eight miles from the northwest shore of Maui, it is visited by divers fewer than 20 days a year. On an average day, swells between 15 and 30 feet roll unabated from as far away as the Aleutian Islands in the North Pacific. As if this were not daunting enough, Moku, as it is locally known, lies where it receives the full brunt of the trade winds. Consistently blowing between 20 and 40 knots, the winds howl out of the northwest and are accelerated as they funnel between Maui and Molokai. Nature has conspired to make Moku Hooniki a destination rarely visited.

I descend to about 70 feet and allow the current to carry me around the Molokai side of Moku Hooniki. After a few minutes of staring into the blue, I start to make out one and then three sharks in the azure distance. It is not until they turn head on that I realize that I am looking at three large hammerheads, keeping their distance 50 feet off the wall. I continue around the point and at about 80 feet, something catches my eye on the reef. As I get closer I realize that I am looking at a school of fish that I have never seen before: Thompson's anthias. As I watch the antics of these small fish that live in harems, a grey reef shark circles in the distance. Though I am often frustrated in my attempts to get here, I'm glad the elements have conspired to keep Moku a natural sanctuary. If it were visited every day, many of these animals would undoubtedly move off to bluer pastures.



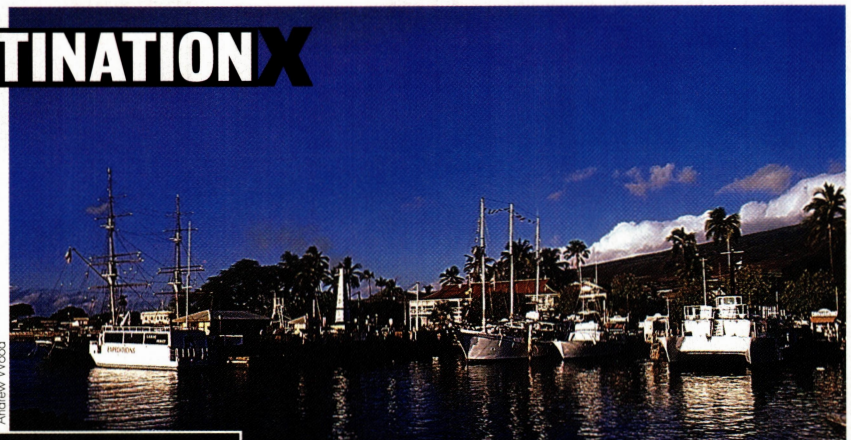
Humpback sightings: December–April

Andrew Wood

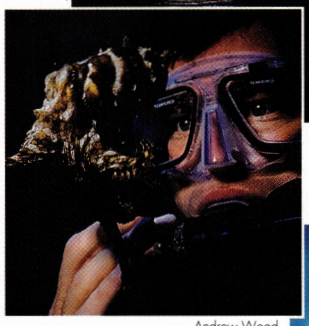
Dive Briefing

Temperatures in Hawaiian waters generally range from highs of about 77–82°in summer, to 73–77° in winter. Visibility is good, ranging from a low of 50, to over 150 feet, and averaging 60 to 80 feet. The trade winds dominate in the islands, especially in the summer. Seas on the windward side are generally choppy, on the lee side calm, except during Kona conditions when winds swing around to the south, are very strong and usually accompanied by torrential rains. To further complicate the picture, ocean swell normally runs from the south in summer and the north in winter and, as any surfer will attest, swells in Hawaii can get really big. The general current in the islands flows west at 1/3 to 1/2 knot. Tidal flow, large surf and other local factors can present divers with everthing from dead still waters to powerful and dangerous flows with nicknames like the Molokai Express. Check with local dive guides and lifeguards to get the latest information.

DESTINATION X



Andrew Wood

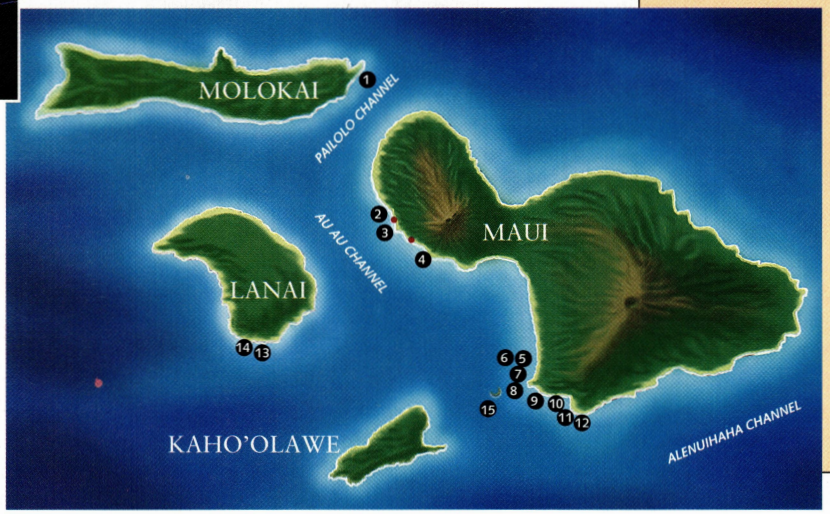


Andrew Wood

Top: Lahaina harbor, gateway to the social and historic center of Maui; Inset: A diver communes with Maui's ubiquitous cephalopod, the octopus.

Maui Overview

THE HAWAIIAN ARCHIPELAGO CONSISTS OF 132 islands spread out across 1,523 miles, roughly in the center of the Pacific Ocean. The islands were formed by a geologic hot spot that now sits under Kilauea on the Big Island. As the Pacific plate migrates to the northwest, new islands are formed and older islands erode and sink into the sea. Maui is the second youngest of the Hawaiian islands. The island of Hawaii is the youngest. The four islands of Maui county—Maui, Lanai, Molokai and Kaho'olawe—began as one island that receded enough to flood the basin between them. The island of Maui is divided by a low isthmus into west Maui, with its historic city of Lahaina, and east Maui, dominated by Haleakala volcano.



Dive Sites

1-Moku Hooniki, **2**-Black Rock, **3**-Hyatt Reef, **4**-Olowalu, **5**-Five Graves, **6**-Marty's Reef, **7**-Tank & Landing Craft, **8**-Red Rock, **9**-La Perouse Bay, **10**-Kamanamana Pt, **11**-Pohaku Arches, **12**-Island Arch, **13**-First & Second Cathedrals, **14**-Monolith, **15**-Molokini Crater

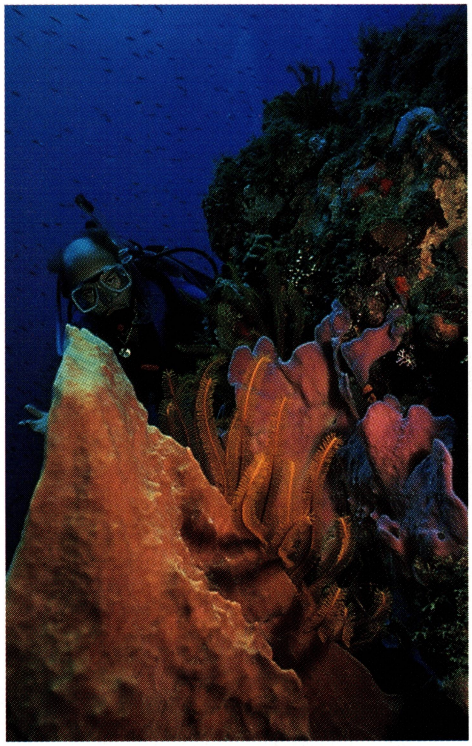
Not that Maui's more popular dive sites aren't worth a visit. They are popular for good reason, and if you've never been to Maui before you'll probably want to check them out. On west Maui, Black Rock and Hyatt Reef are good beginner and night dives. Farther down the coast, Olowalu is wildly popular with snorkelers and a good place when everything else is blown out. East Maui hosts its share of sites too. Five Graves, near Makena, is an interesting spot and a quarter mile farther out lies equally worthwhile Marty's Reef. A bit south of that and half a mile out lies a little something for wreck-diving enthusiasts, a site known by the self-explanatory name of Tank and Landing Craft. South from there, you might try Red Rock or La Perouse Bay. In the Kanaio area, Kamanamana Point, Pohaku Arches and Island Arch are all worth investigating—and all within half a mile of each other.

While these sites are perennial favorites, a morning charter to Lanai or Molokini is well worth the effort.

The most popular dive sites on Lanai are First and Second Cathedrals. These large caverns are lit by ethereal shafts of sapphire light. The effect of the light shining through various skylights, bathing the chambers, is mesmerizing and should be experienced by divers visiting Maui. However, these two popular sites are visited by a few dozen divers daily and like a threadbare carpet, they are showing wear and tear in certain high traffic areas. Ask a local dive guide where he would like to dive, and chances are he won't say the Cathedrals. When divers allow the dive guides to pick the dive destination on the south side of Lanai, they might end up at a spotlike Monolith. A mesa that rises from about 130 feet, the top of the formation is about 50 feet below the surface. Not much bigger than a comfortable two-story home, Monolith is infrequently visited. The

The Early Bird Factor

DIVING IN MAUI COUNTY means setting your alarm. Arriving at the boat at 6:30 am is the norm here. Is this so the captain and crew can get back into the harbor to start drinking at noon? Well maybe. But a better reason is that as the day wears on, the trade winds build in intensity and many of the sites are blown out after about 10 am. The good news is that your body is probably on mainland time anyway; two to seven hours ahead of island time.



St. Vincent & the Grenadines

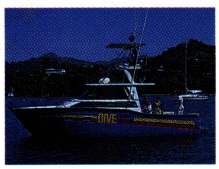
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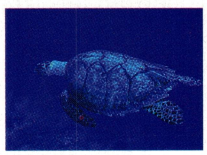
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FAX: **(809) 456-2610**. P.O. Box 834, Kingstown, St. Vincent & the Grenadines.

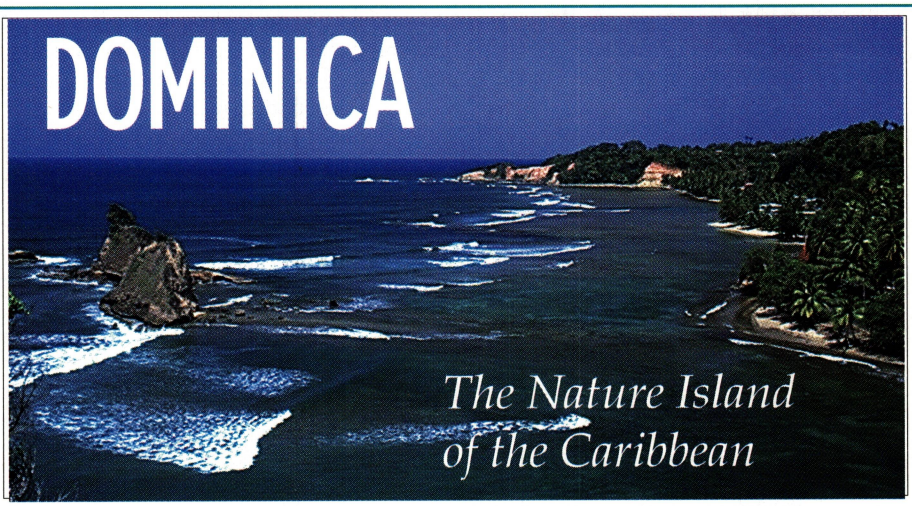
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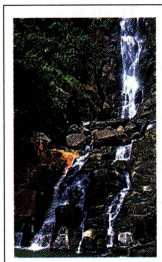
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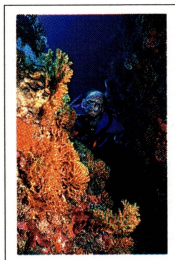
Anchorage Hotel
32 well-appointed bedrooms, all with A/C, overlooking the tranquil Caribbean Sea. Full-service PADI dive center offering certification courses and referrals, dive packages and unique whale-watching excursions. Restuarant and bar featuring Thursday night manager's rumpunch party and barbeque buffet. In-house tour company, Dominica Tours. Freshwater swimming pool, squash court, personalized service. **(800) 328-5336.**

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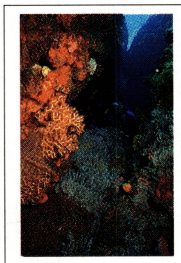




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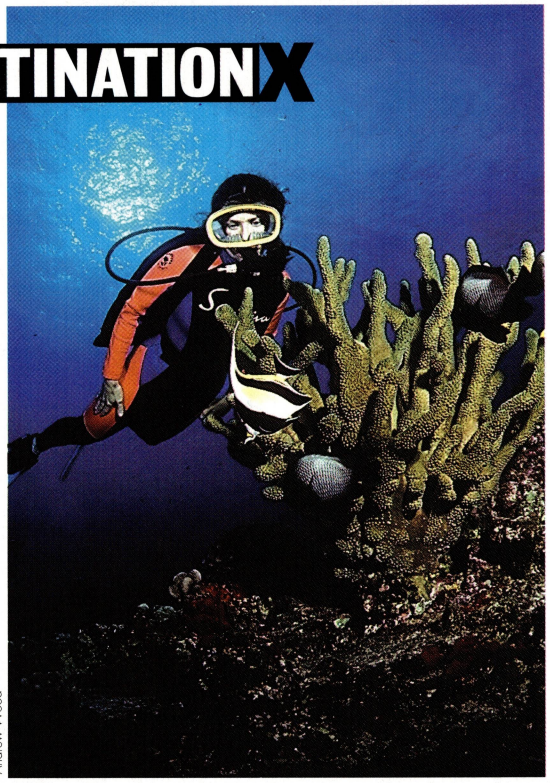


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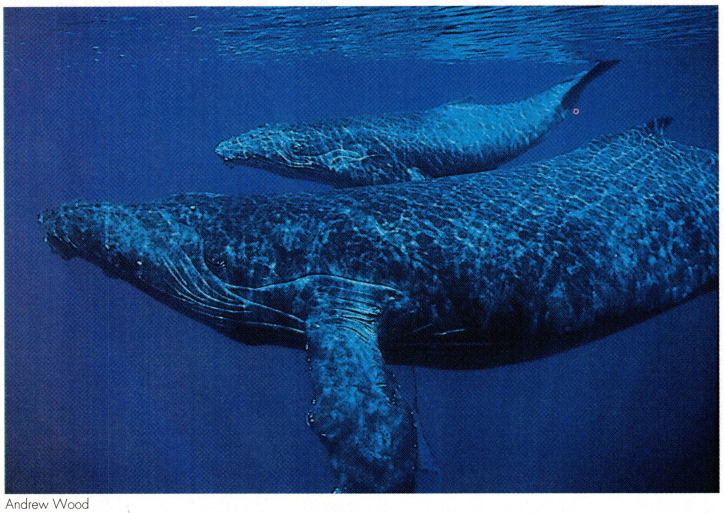
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DESTINATION X



Andrew Wood



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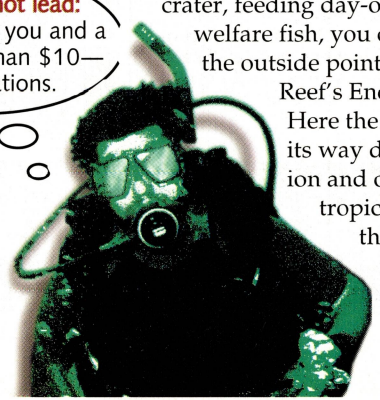
Above: Colorful reef scenes and calm waters make Molokini Crater one of the most popular dive sites in the islands; Above right: Humpbacks like this mother and calf winter over in the relatively shallow waters around Maui.

first time I explored this site, I spent 20 minutes watching a moray getting dental work done by a cleaner shrimp. After cleaning the moray's razor sharp teeth, I observed the shrimp disappear down the eel's gullet, only to reemerge from his gill vent.

It is also here that I saw my first long nose hawkfish. In Hawaii the favorite habitat of these elusive fish is the black coral bushes usually found deeper than a hundred feet. On the seaward side of Monolith there are a few of these corals that have been overlooked by the coral divers who make their living harvesting and selling these slow-growing corals to jewelers.

Another popular day trip is Molokini. By about nine o'clock every morning, this marine preserve looks like a marina. More than two dozen boats are moored with their sterns backed into the crescent-shaped sunken crater. Some of the larger boats have their rope corrals up so that their crowd of 150 snorkelers don't get mixed up with the neighbor's herd. A few hundred yards from tip to tip, Molokini is the most popular snorkel and dive destination in the state. And it is not unusual during a dive to have boats block out the sun overhead.

In spite of this, Molokini still offers some of the best diving in the state. Consistent visibility between one and two hundred feet and the chance of encountering blue-water creatures—such as mantas, ono (a.k.a. wahoo) and barracuda—make Molokini a great place to dive. The key to enjoying the great diving at Molokini is a six-pack. No, not your favorite microbrew, but a six-passenger boat. These boats leave Kihei boat ramp as the sun rises, and make the run out to Molokini in about 15 minutes. They can get you in the water before the crater turns into a day at the state fair. The smaller group also makes drift dives around the back wall and the outside edges of the crater more feasible. While the majority of the tourists are moored up against the inside of the crater, feeding day-old bread to the welfare fish, you can be diving the outside points of Molokini: Reef's End and Enenue. Here the reef stair-steps its way down into oblivion and offers the only tropical wall dive in the United States.



Watching the Whales

BEGINNING IN LATE FALL, THE HAWAIIAN islands receive their largest and most impressive visitors—the yearly migration of humpback whales. The first whales show up in late October and November. By December whales are being sighted all over the shallow channels around Maui. The season peaks in February and March. By May, the whales are gone—back in their feeding grounds in the north Pacific. If you're on Maui during the humpback season there's a good chance you'll be able to spot them, even from shore. Just look for all the other cars pulled over on the side of the road and the folks standing out there with binoculars. An even better way is to take one of the numerous whale watching tours. Most operate out of Lahaina, but you can find them in Maalaea and Kihei as well. Diving with the whales is, of course, an unforgettable experience, but somewhat problematic. Humpbacks are protected by the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 and the Endangered Species Act of 1973. It is illegal to approach the whales within 100 yards, or within 300 yards of a cow and calf. It is illegal to disrupt the animals' normal behavior in any way. It is not illegal, however, for the whales to approach you. So diving with the humpbacks is essentially a roll of the dice—their choice, not yours. Get in the water, maybe they'll get curious. If not, at least you have the satisfaction of knowing these magnificent creatures are being protected, and you're not one of those crass tourists risking a $25,000 fine and a year in the slammer.

Maui Basics

Climate: Perfect—winter 70-80°, summer 80-90°
Entry requirements, language, vaccinations: You're kidding, right? Hawaii is our fiftieth state.
Most common ailment: Sunburn
Most common complaint: I don't wanna go home!
Biggest tourists: Humpback whales; Jan-April
Best background music: Humpback song during a dive
Quickest way to a federal prison: Approach a whale closer than 100 yards.
Best way to avoid Club Fed: Let the whales come to you.
Cheap thrills: Whale watch tour
Best hike: Haleakala (at 10,000 feet it even snows)
Other activities: Windsurfing, surfing, body boarding (plenty of good instructors to show you how), mountain biking, horseback riding, world class golf, renting a Harley, helicopter tours, luaus ((you gotta' do at least one), driving to heavenly Hana, shopping or browsing for art and T-shirts, reading a trashy novel on one of Maui's great beaches.
Where to stay: Five-star resorts to condos, Maui's got it all.
Avoid the crowds: Come in May, September, or the first part of December.
Get lost in the crowd: Any time school is out. Especially Christmas break and July through August.
Dining: Pacific-Rim-style cuisine
Ono kine grinds: (translation: delicious dining) Avalon, David Paul's, Roy's All Lahaina Side Pacifico in Kihei
Cheap kine grinds: (translation: affordable dining) Maui Tacos in Kihei, Lahaina and Napili; Hard Rock, Lahaina
Best refreshment tip: Shave ice (just don't call it a sno-cone)

■ ■ ■

Dive charters: There are many dive charters and operators in the islands. Here are a few recommendations:
On Maui:
Extended Horizons—These guys really know Lanai diving. A 12-passenger boat. In Lahaina, (808) 667-0611
Ed Robinson—Both 6- and 12-passenger boats. Good, professional crew. In Kihei, (808) 879-3584
West Maui Charters—Six-passenger boat. They specialize in custom charters: fishing, diving, snorkeling, whatever. You hire the boat and Captain Ron. In Lahaina, (808) 669-6193
Kapalua Dive Company—Kayak and scooter (DPV) dives. In Lahaina, (808) 669-4665
Hawaiian Reef Divers—Molokini Crater and Catherdral Caverns on Lanai. 156 Lahainaluna Rd., Lahaina, (800) 551-6767 or (808) 667-7647; Fax: (808) 661-7180.
On the Big Island:
Eco-Adventures—Kailua-Kona, (800) 949-3483
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Manta Ray Tours—Kailua-Kona, (800) 986-2682
Jack's Diving Locker—Kailua-Kona, (800) 345-4807
On Oahu:
Beach Divers—West Side Oahu, (800) 535-2487
On Kauai:
Nitrox Tropical Divers—Scooter dives, Kauai's only enriched-air training facility. Resort/combo packages. Kalapaki Beach, Kauai, (800) NX5-DIVE

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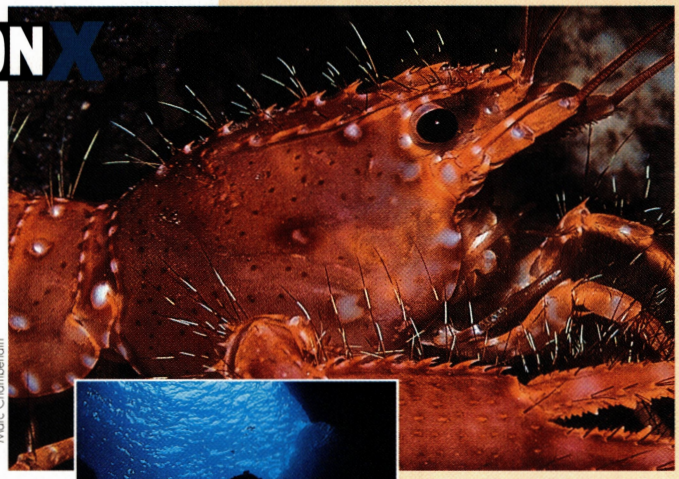
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Tel: 714-728-1026
Fax: 714-728-1046
Or direct: 011-52-114-3-40-04

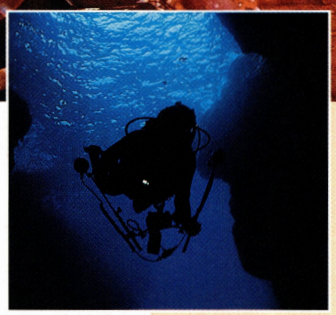
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800-328-5285



Marc Chamberlain



Marc Chamberlain

Above: A Hawaiian lobster, resident of the shadowy realm of the lava tube; Right: A diver enters one of Kona's submarine lava tubes, home of Hawaii's seldom-seen marine creatures.

A belated set of rules have recently been imposed for Molokini. Operators have been asked to put the local fish on a diet and, after more than a decade of foot dragging, the state has finally made most of Molokini a no-anchor zone. To minimize damage by anchors, use of a mediocre mooring system, that has taken more than five years to install, is starting to be mandatory.

Diving in Hawaii is like no other place in the world. There are about 600 species of fish found here. And while that is twice as many species as even the most prolific Caribbean reef, it is only a fraction of the more than two thousand or more species found on reefs in the western Pacific. More than three thousand miles from any other substantial landmass, Hawaii is the most isolated archipelago in the world. This has had the effect of isolating animals on the islands and on the reef. From the few waifs that have drifted on the currents from the parent stock in the Indopacific have evolved the species that call Hawaii home. One of every three fish on the reef is found only in Hawaii. These species, called endemic by biologists, are what makes diving in Hawaii so unique. It is these fish and the lava and coral homes that they inhabit that delight even the well-traveled diver, making America's fiftieth state a great place to spend some bottom time.

"More than three thousand miles from any landmass, Hawaii is the most isolated archipelago in the world."

Getting Tubed in Kona

If you have any misgivings about dark places crawling with mysterious animals, perhaps you should skip this story. However, if you have—as I do—a morbid fascination with dark caverns, let me suggest Hawaii's Kona coast submarine lava tubes.

The Hawaiian Islands—both above and below water—are honeycombed by lava tubes. They may be simple or complex. Simple tubes are open-ended tunnels or cul-de-sacs, whereas complex lava tubes branch into a multitude of chambers frequently at different submarine depths. The Kona coast is replete in complex lava tubes, all of which require underwater lights (including a back-up) to explore.

My interest in lava tubes is not just a fetish for dark wet places, rather it's an interest in the animals that reside in these spots. Particularly in Hawaii, especially near the entrance, most lava tubes are decorated by encrusting red sponges creating dazzling walls when illuminated. Look for sponges deeper inside, although they are typically less numerous, predominantly soft-pastel colors, and frequently vase-like in aspect. Nocturnally active schooling fish like tube entrances, too, usually members of one of the squirrelfish species, goatfish or bigeye snappers. These creatures are relatively unafraid, and easily approached. A close-up view reveals their large light-gathering eyes and red coloration. Careful observers may catch a glimpse of Hawaiian lionfish near tube entrances, and the white-tipped reef shark appreciates these spots as well.

Deeper penetration into the tubes reveals solitary creatures, the Tahitian squirrelfish and numerous species of small cardinalfish, for example. Deep in the cave's recesses look for the knifefish, a strange-looking creature about 10 to 18 inches long. Compressed from side to side, with a continuous fin running from head to tail, it is black with faint longitudinal white striping. It has barbels similar to a goatfish. Catch a glimpse of one of these and consider yourself lucky; they are shy and photophobic.

Mollusks, both shelled and shell-less also inhabit Hawaii's lava tubes. Whelks, tuns and cowries are common, usually found foraging in sandy places on the tube's floor, often with their fleshy mantle veiling the shell. In addition, watch for the occasional nudibranch—usually Spanish dancers, the massive tuberculated dorid and pleurobranchs like the apricot slug. Clams, chitons, octopus and their kin are conspicuously absent.

Crustaceans, lobsters and shrimp are perhaps the most exciting animals in the tube. At least six species of lobster have been identified, including two species of slipper lobster. The strangest of these is the mole lobster, a secretive tangerine-colored animal that looks like a hybrid between a spiny and slipper lobster found deep inside the tube. Probably the most striking is the diminutive Hawaiian hairy lobster which sports small golden hairs over its red body, emblazoned on either side of its thorax by a distinctive tear-shaped marking. These fellows slip in and out of the volcanic rock jumble often found on the floor and walls of lava tubes.

If your interest in getting tubed in Kona has been piqued, with a little patience and several dives most, if not all, of these animals can be found and photographed. It's just one more good reason to dive Hawaii.

—Marc Chamberlain

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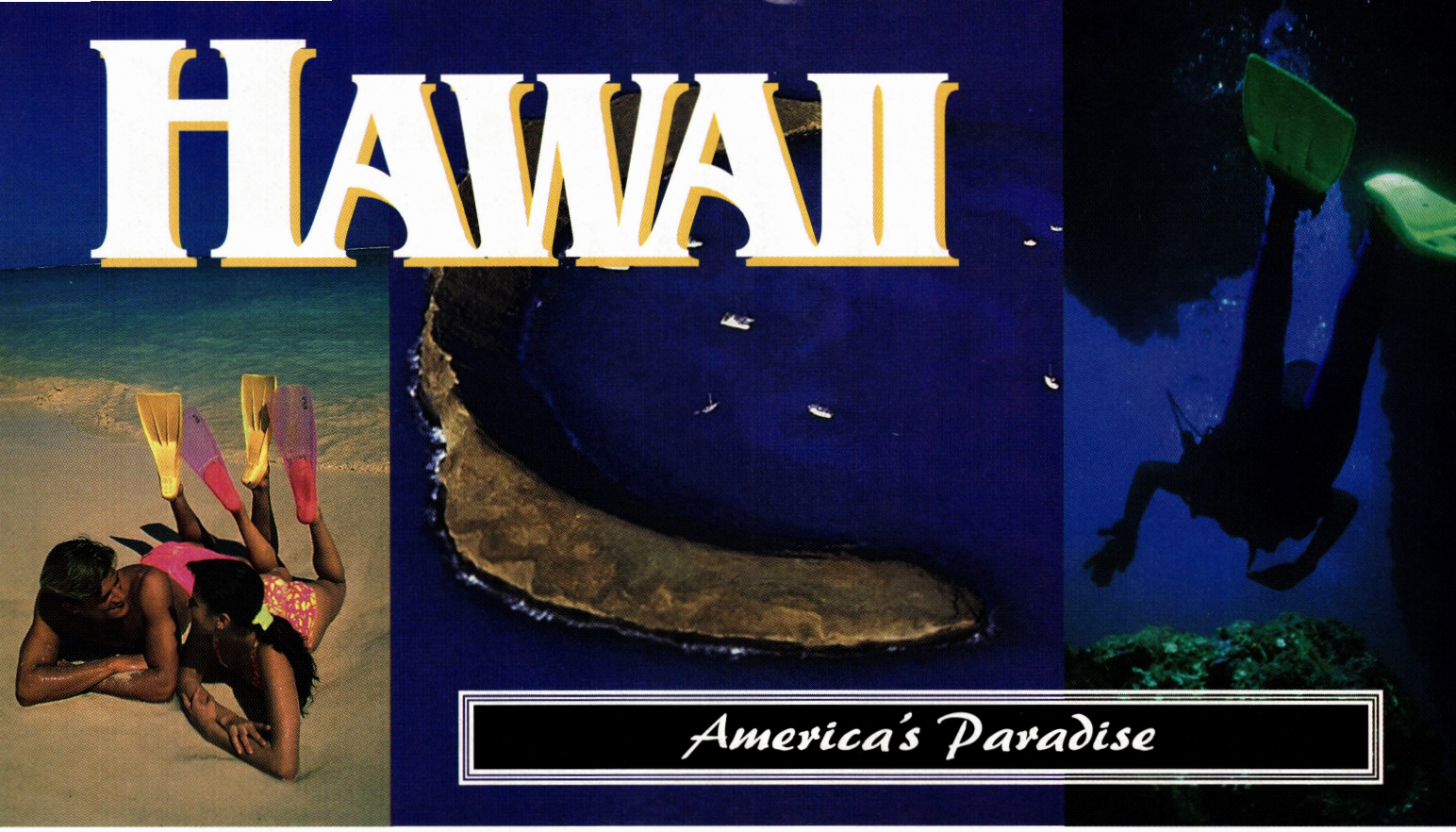
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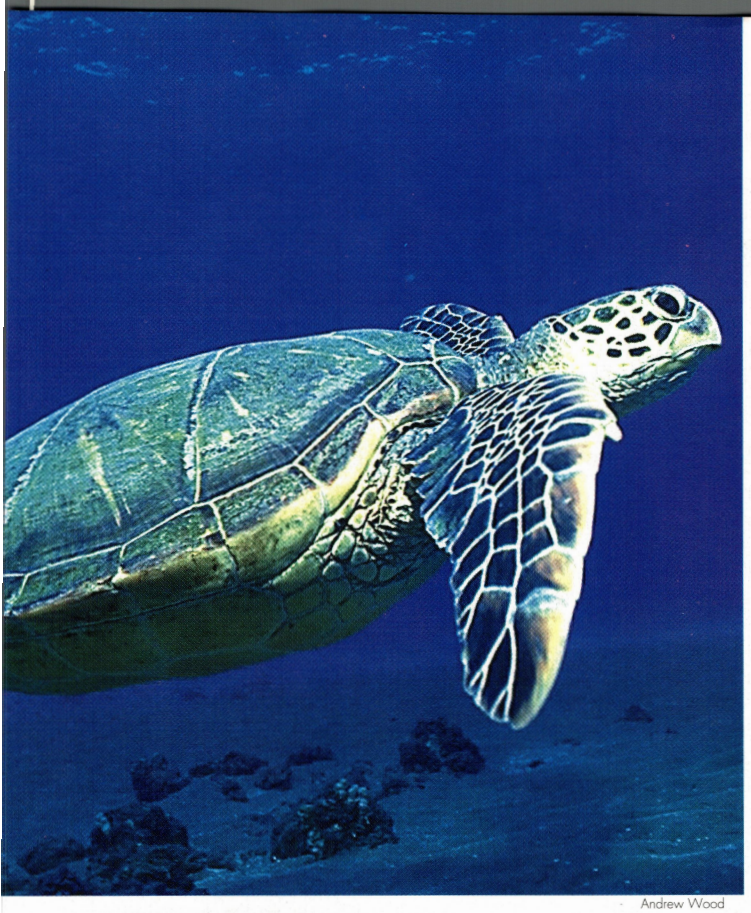
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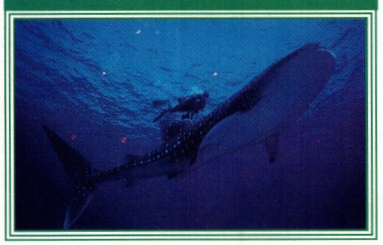
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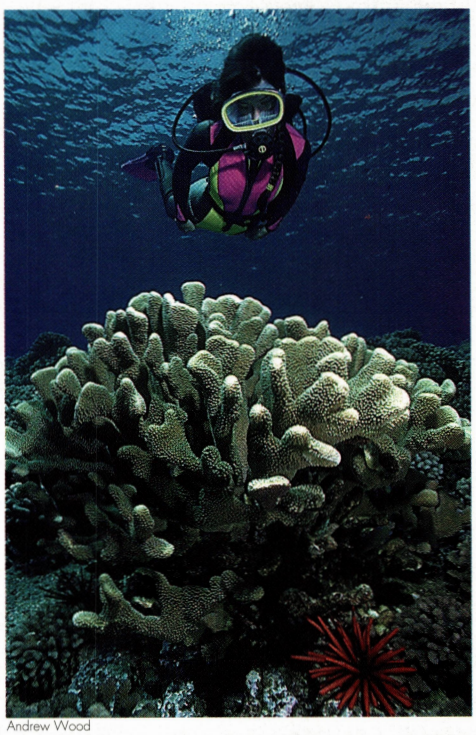
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Andrew Wood

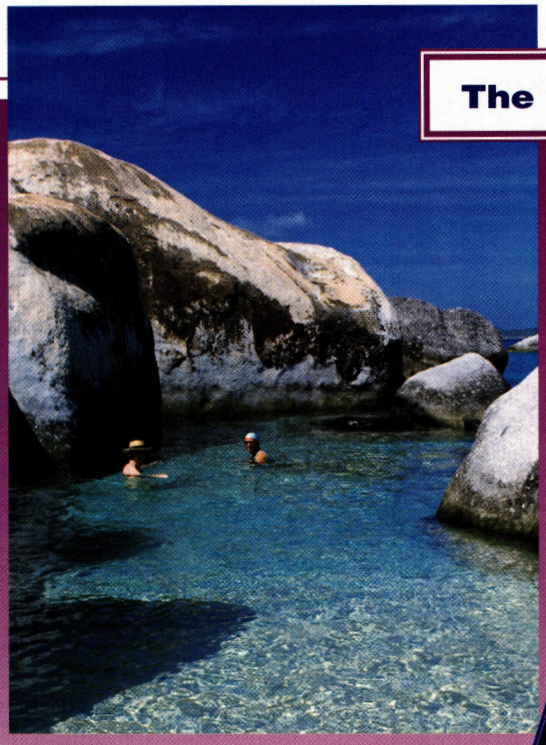
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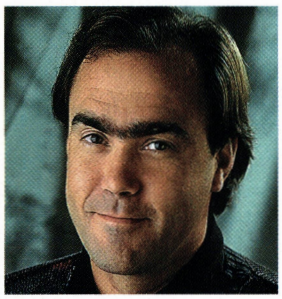
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Ocean Eye





Curtis Boggs

When he took up diving and photography in 1980, Curtis Boggs admits he had his hands full, but it didn't stop him from closing his business and moving to the Bahamas to run an underwater photo center. A few years later he was doing the same thing in Cayman. He now lives in Virginia and works as a professional photographer specializing in underwater, travel, advertising catalog and fashion work. Bogg's work has appeared in many publications. His favorite place to dive? Cayman, of course.

Above: A sea turtle plys the waters off Cayman; Below: A diver glides over the ghostly remains of a sunken wreck.

My photographic system: I take most of my photos with a Nikon F4 in an Aquatica housing. This system gives me greater versatility than any I have tried. The large sport viewfinder on the F4 makes composition easier. I use a variety of lenses from 16mm fisheye to 105mm macro, but I favor wide angle and shoot with the 15 and 20mm lenses the most. To me, lighting is everything and Ikelite strobes can't be beat. I use two 150 sub strobes, and sometimes three with the Ikelite TTL slave sensor. For topside shooting, I use either the F4 or the Mamiya 645 pro.



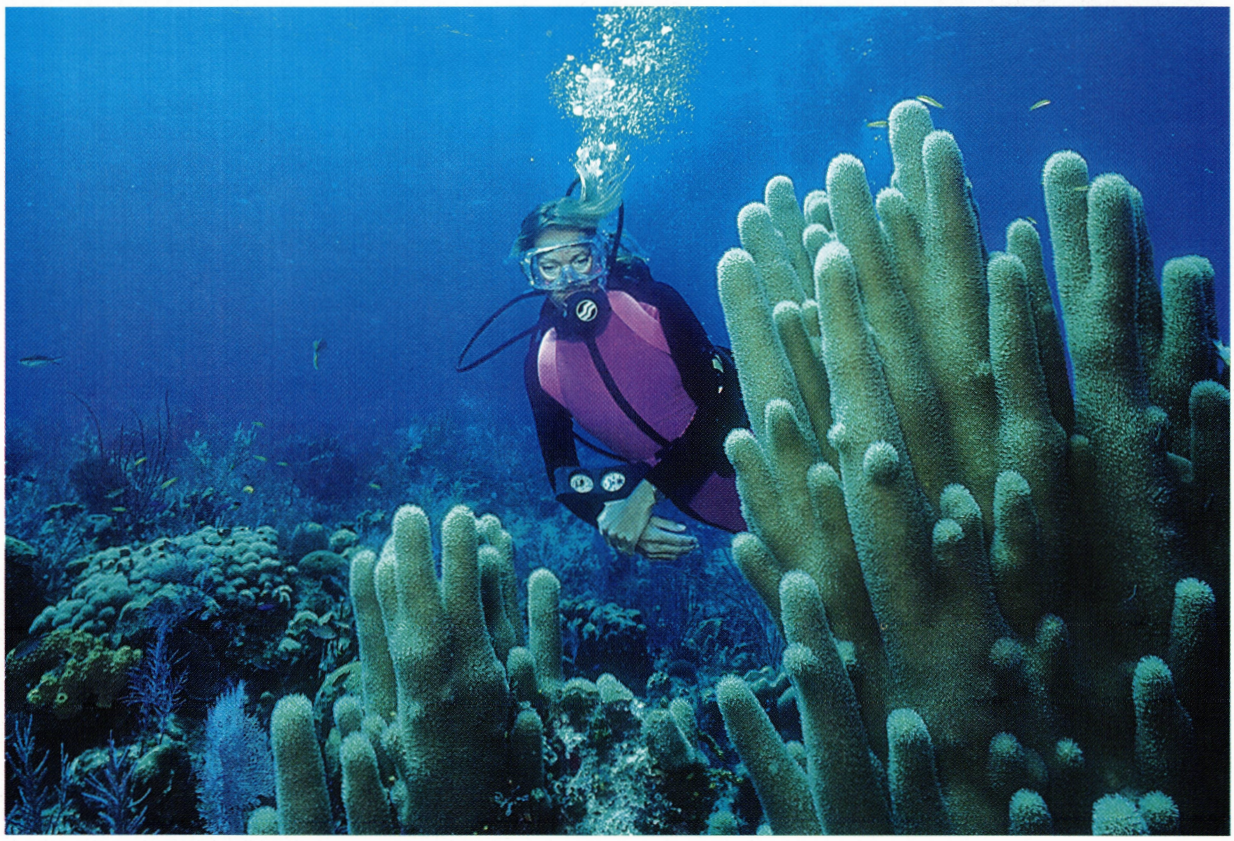
Ocean Eye

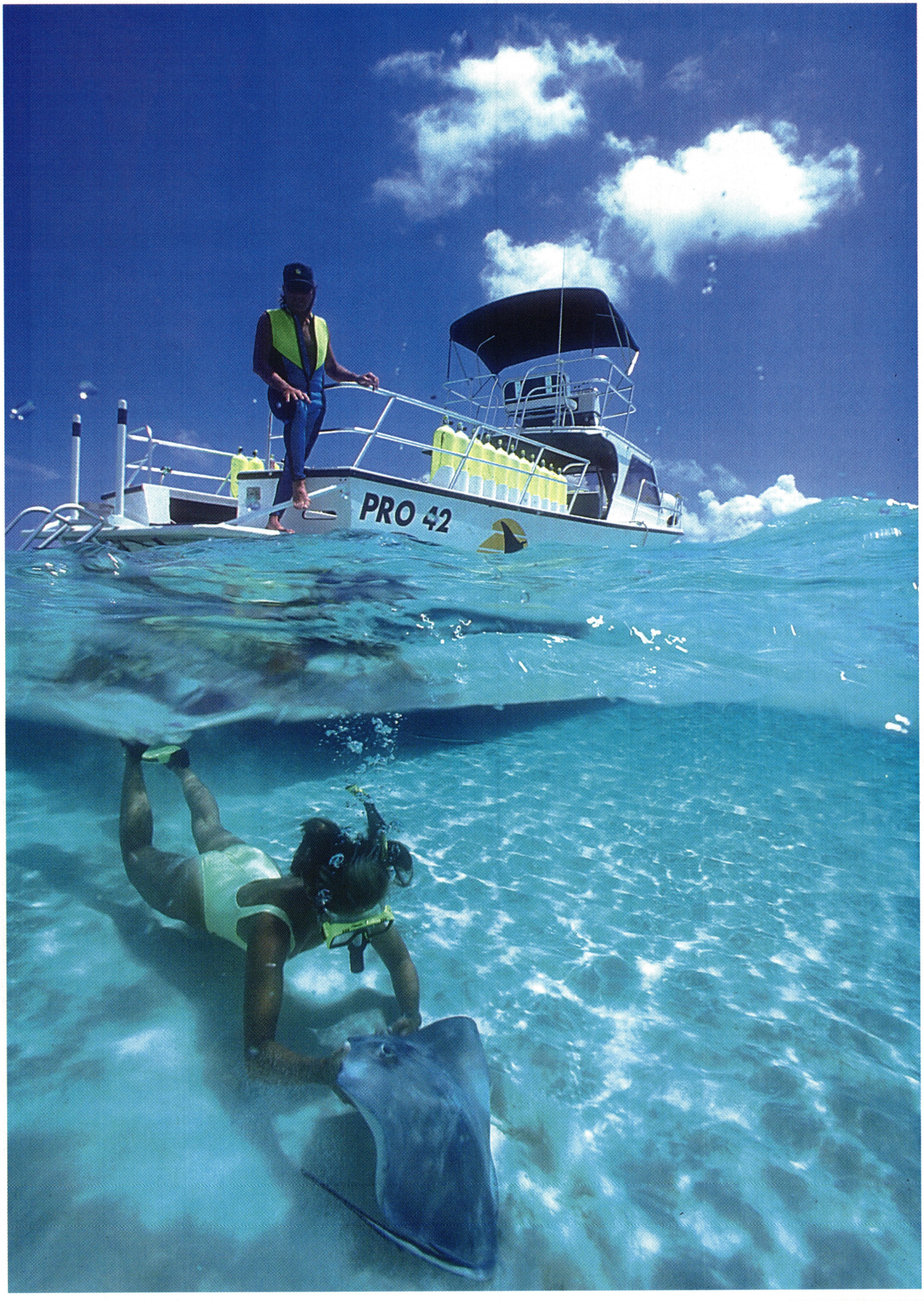


Curtis Boggs

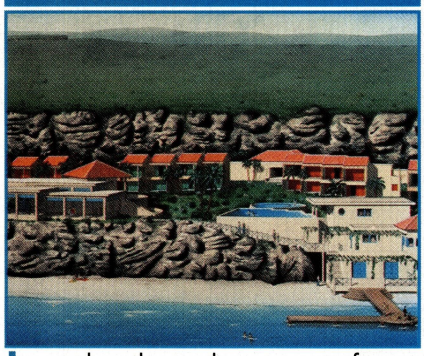
I have learned a great deal working with different magazines and their art directors, as well as the other photographers I have met—they are a valuable resource. Always try to keep an open mind and an attentive ear. To me, lighting is all-important. The move from one strobe to two, and from two to three has made astonishing differences in my work. I try to apply studio/fashion lighting techniques to my underwater subjects. It often takes me 20 to 30 minutes to compose, light and take a single shot, but I think the extra effort shows in the final result. Wide-angle lenses don't just let you get more in the frame, they let you get closer and that allows you to get good strobe light on the subject. Too much of the strobe light is lost at distances greater than three feet. Shooting in the clear water of a place like Cayman helps a lot, too.

Left: A lobster poses on the rim of a barrel sponge; Below: A diver investigates a coral garden; and Right: A snorkeler visits with one of the locals at Cayman's famous Stingray City.




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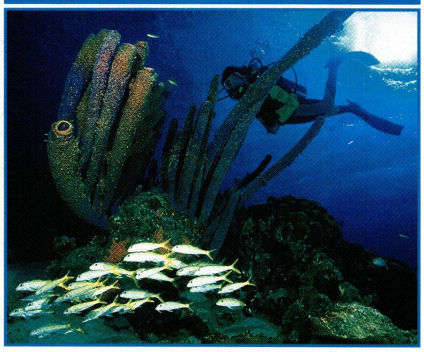
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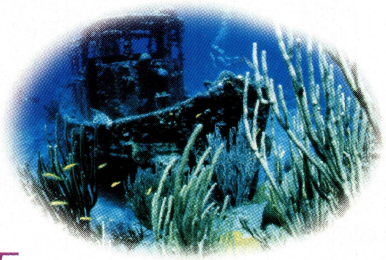


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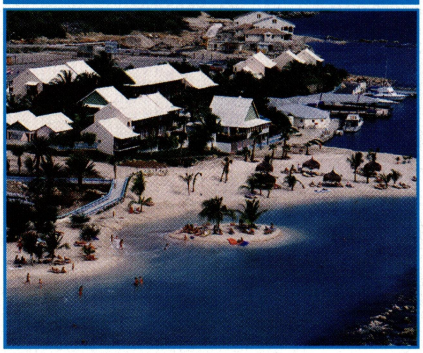
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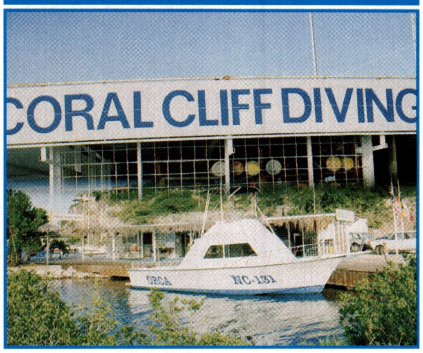
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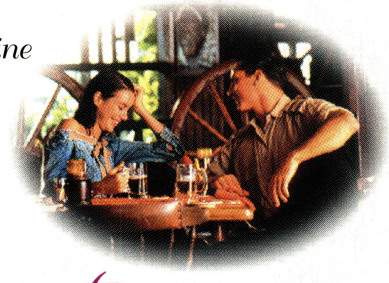
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Que

Jeanetta K. Hodges

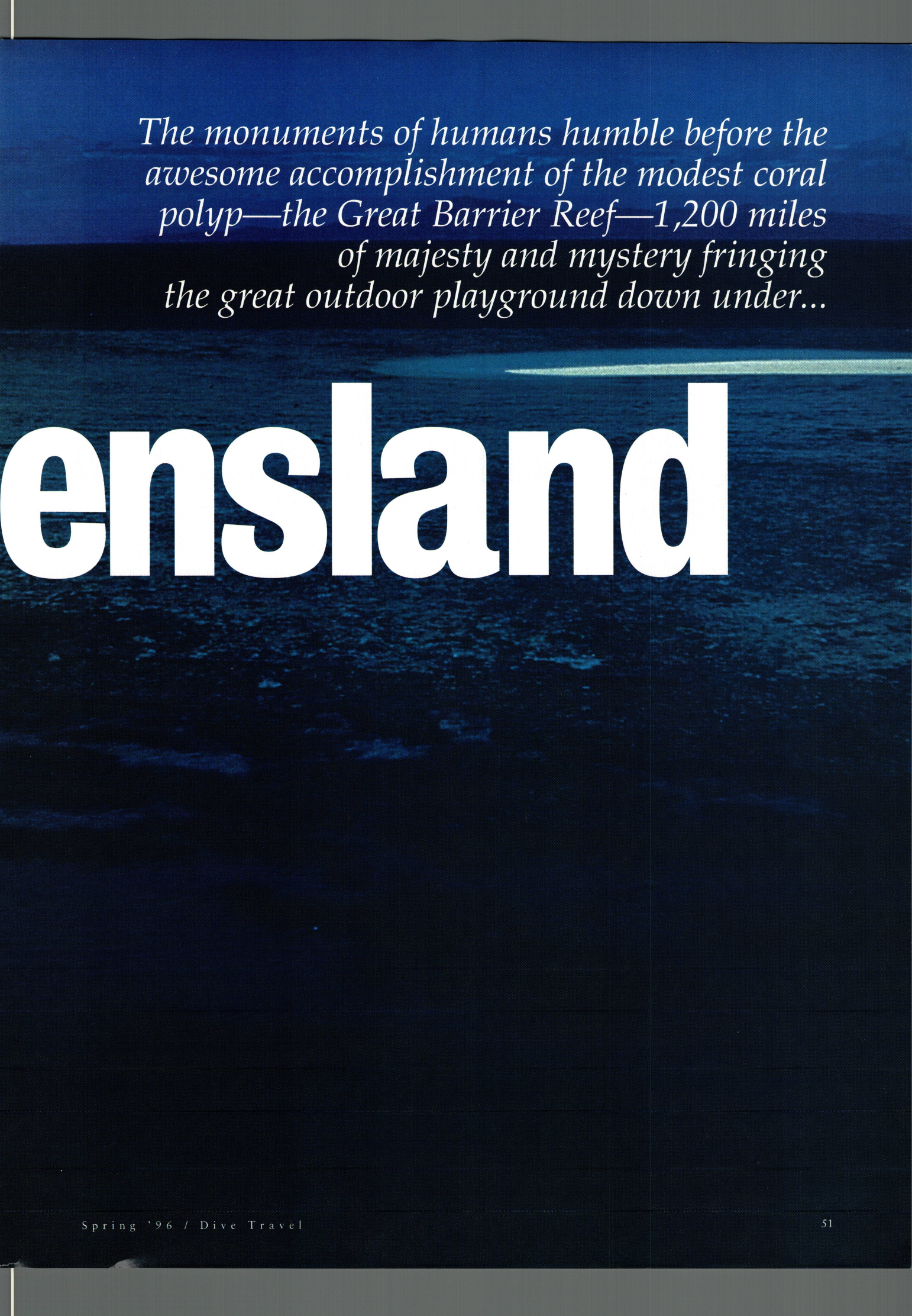
If you've been a diver for more than a day, you've probably already heard how incredible a dive holiday to Australia can be: world-class live-aboards, the Great Barrier Reef, diving with whale sharks, and the adrenaline rush of seeing the great white shark. It's true, diving in Australia is incredible. Among the more exotic adventures are great white shark dives in the south, and a snorkeling adventure with whale sharks in Exmouth. While these dives are unique, it's still the lure of the Great Barrier Reef that brings most dive travelers to Australia. But if you're about to spend a few thousand dollars and fly half way around the world, it's not unreasonable to want more than world-class diving. The good news is a multitude of experiences await the dive traveler, whether in a family or traveling solo.



Jeanetta K. Hodges

One of Australia's best kept secrets is Brisbane, Queensland's capital. Most Americans flying into Australia arrive in Sydney, but if you can bear to miss out on the Opera House and Sydney Harbor, consider Brisbane as your gateway city. It's closer to the dive attractions on the Great Barrier Reef and loaded with topside attractions.

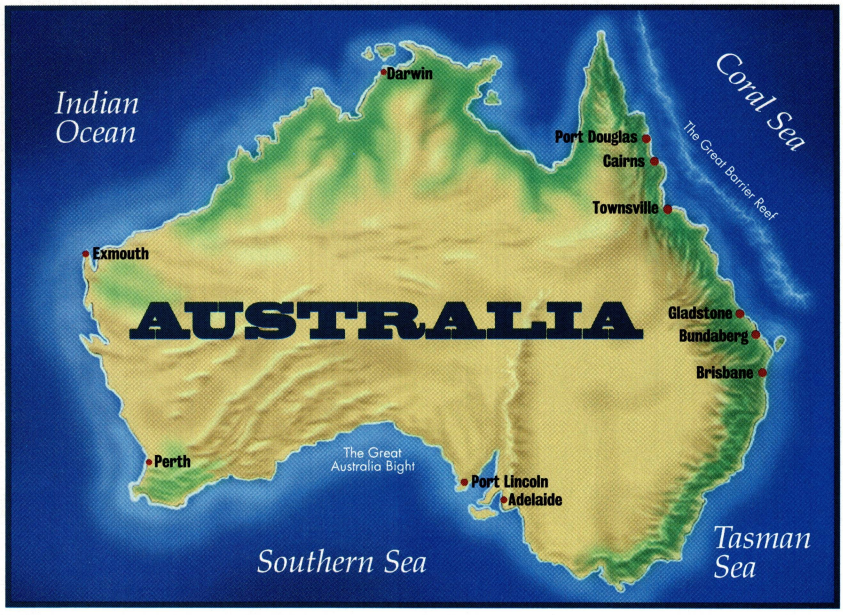
By Val Hodges



The monuments of humans humble before the awesome accomplishment of the modest coral polyp—the Great Barrier Reef—1,200 miles of majesty and mystery fringing the great outdoor playground down under...

ensland

Within striking distance of Brisbane are ancient rainforests, wildlife parks and sanctuaries, outback excursions, the glitzy Gold Coast, wine country tours, paddle-wheel river cruises, beautiful bay islands, and mile upon mile of exquisite beaches. Picture a lush, green subtropical city with rolling hills, on the banks of a wide, twisting river that empties into an island-fringed bay. Add a backdrop of rugged blue mountains, and you've got a basic picture of the beauty that is Brisbane. Two hours in any cardinal direction you'll discover





Jeanetta K. Hodges

Visible from the moon, the reef is the world's largest living thing and includes more than 2,000 individual reefs and countless islands

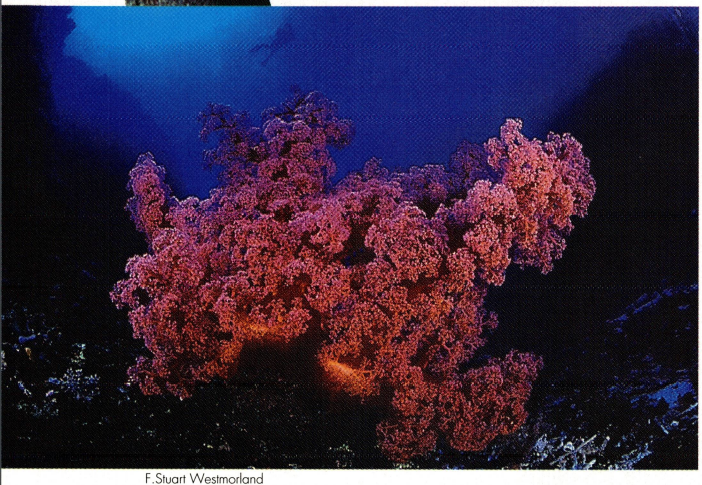
the amazing diversity that makes this city the perfect gateway to the Australian experience.

East is Moreton Bay, a large, relatively protected boating paradise dotted with lovely islands. South is the Gold Coast, a gambling, shopping and surfing paradise, along with one of the most beautiful jewels in Queensland's crown—the rainforests of Lamington National Park. To the west, bushland and mountains give way to the fertile farmland of the Downs, and eventually to the heat and dust of the Outback. North of Brisbane are the ancient Glass House Mountains, huge volcanic plugs steeped in Aboriginal lore. Also to the north is the Sunshine Coast, with laid-back ocean-front communities and some of the most stunning stretches of beach found in Australia.

While Brisbane is geographically large, its population base is less than half that of Sydney or Melbourne. One of the cleanest and safest cities, it still exudes an atmosphere of a quieter time. If the Great Barrier Reef is your diving destination, it's likely your flight into Australia will be routed through Brisbane. To take full advantage, stay a couple of days in Brisbane on your inbound leg; shrug off your jet-lag and get your bearings. A stop-over outbound is a great way to get your land-legs after a dive trip on a live-aboard, do a bit of duty-free shopping and discover some of Australia's topside magic.

The Great Barrier Reef is Queensland's crowning glory, stretching more than 1,200 miles from the Cape York in the north to Bundaberg in the south. Visible from the moon, the reef is the world's largest living thing and includes more than 2,000 individual reefs and countless islands. For hard-core divers a live-aboard is one of the best ways to explore the reef, and Australia has some of the finest vessels afloat. Divers can choose

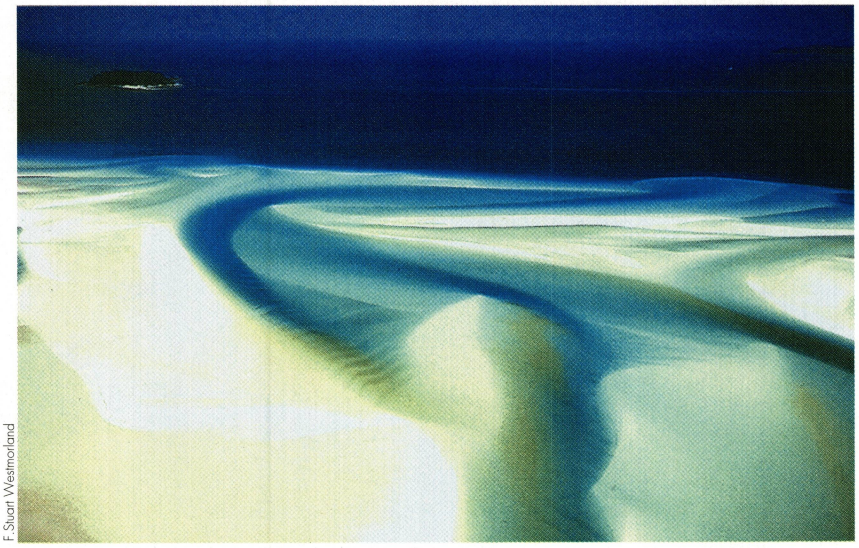
Left: Queensland is home to a whole cast of fascinating characters; Below: Giant soft coral trees are common on the GBR.



F. Stuart Westmorland

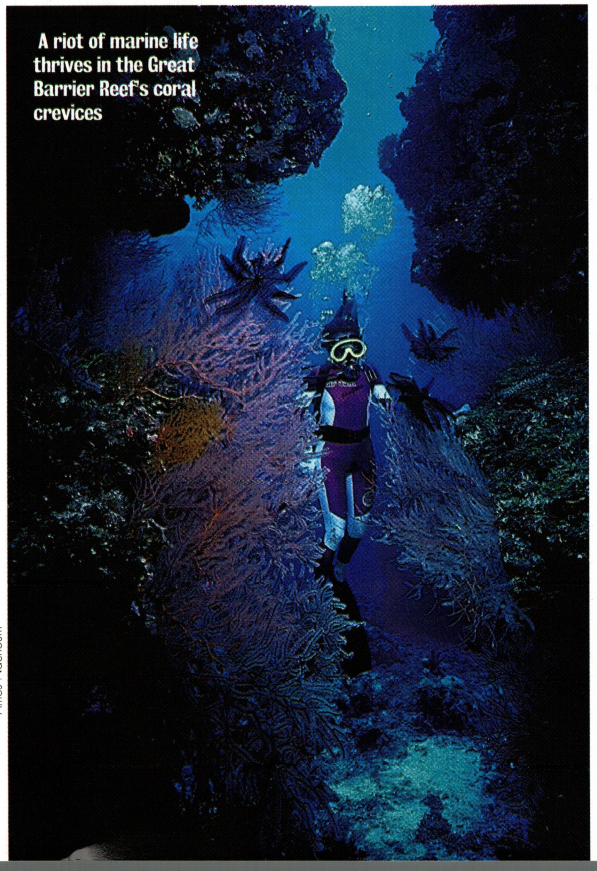
from budget boats to luxury liners, from an overnighter to a 21-day reef/rainforest expedition. Live-aboards depart from Gladstone, Townsville, the Whitsundays, Cairns and Port Douglas, just to name a few. Prices and inclusions vary, as do the number of days on board, usually four to seven, so check out the details and look around for the best buy—cheap is not always nasty, and expensive not always the best, but as a rule of thumb—you usually get what you pay for.

Island resort destinations are a popular alternative for divers who go green at the thought of bobbing around on a boat for days. The islands fall into two categories: continental islands—mountaintops rising from the continental shelf, and coral cays. The continental islands, like the Whitsundays, are not part of the Great Barrier Reef, but many have relatively close access. These islands can offer lush rainforests, bush walking, closer access to the mainland, and often more diversity in services and activities. Coral cays, like Heron Island and Lady Elliot Island, lie closer to the reef and provide better access, but tend to be more remote. Knowing the difference can help prevent disappointment (see sidebar, GBR Island Highlights). Many of the islands have resorts, including dedicated dive resorts, and accommodations range from five-star to camping—with prices to match. They can provide a wonderful experience for families or groups with non-divers. Diving is from beach or boat, and is often not included in the base price; check before you go. The Whitsundays, with their spectacular beaches, are among the best known of the continental islands and boast plenty of great dive sites including a permanent pontoon between Hook and Hardy Reefs. Bait Reef, just northeast, is a beautiful coral lagoon with pinnacles and dropoffs and its famous Stepping Stones. Black Reef, to the southwest, has many excellent and less visited dive sites.



F. Stuart Westmorland

The Whitsunday Islands are justly famous for fabulous beaches like this one at Whitehaven



A riot of marine life thrives in the Great Barrier Reef's coral crevices

Amos Nachoum

While most Americans choose a live-aboard or island resort, day trips from the mainland can offer a family or a mixed diver/non-diver group more flexibility in planning their holiday. Many day-trip reef operators cater to families, offering activities such as reef walks, submarine viewing, snorkeling, island tours and glass-bottom boat trips in ad-

Getting AROUND

GETTING TO AUSTRALIA IS EASY ON ANY OF several international air carriers. Talk to your travel agent about available routings, and consider purchasing Visit Australia passes. You can get coupons for up to four domestic flights for very little money. While bus and train are also options for domestic travel, air transport is still the most efficient method, and usually very cost competitive.

Public transport facilities in cities like Brisbane area are extensive. With a little planning it is easy and inexpensive to get around by bus, train, river ferry or taxi. The Metropolitan Transit Authority's pocket map is a useful tool. If you plan to drive in Queensland, stop by any RACQ (Royal Automobile Club of Queensland) office for maps and driving advice. Queensland Transport also provides free brochures, information and road safety advice. The main rule of the road in Australia is to drive on the left-hand side. You'll be surprised how easy it is to get used to. Don't be completely reliant on road signs—study a map before you leave and use a navigator if possible. Perhaps the biggest mistake made by visitors to Australia is underestimating its size. If you're planning to drive long distances, carefully check the mileage, expect less than perfect road conditions, and take a break every two hours. Fatigue is the number one killer on Australia's remote roadways. If you are planning to go outback, get expert advice first.



Amos Nachoum



F.Stuart Westmorland



Jeanette K. Hodges

Top: Giant clams abound in the waters of the GBR; Right: The far north is home to a wide variety of unique creatures like this flying fox; Above: Coral bommies rise from the seabed sometimes hundreds of feet making for spectacular sheer walls

dition to scuba dives. Day trips are available throughout Queensland. Prices vary dramatically from $45 to $250 (Australian dollars), depending on the location, number of dives, food, use of scuba gear and the availability of other activities.

Townsville is Australia's largest tropical city and northern Queensland's most important seaport. This modern metropolis of 96,000 is home port to a number of popular live-aboard dive boats that visit the Great Barrier Reef. The reef is closer to shore here than in the south and in addition to the large fleet of live-aboards there are a number of operators that run day boats. Check out Bowl Reef No. 1 for large gorgonians, caves, overhangs, drop-offs and good night diving. John Brewer Reef offers good shallow reef diving and shark encounters. Coil Reef features bommies, giant clams and huge plate corals. Davies Reef is comprised of three major bommies in a line with walls full of caverns and crevices.

Another of Townsville's top diving attractions is the wreck of the *SS Yongala*, a coastal steamship lost in a cyclone in 1911. In its more than 80 years on the bottom the *Yongala* has become home to a fantastic array of marine life. Lying at about 100 feet the *Yongala* is a living museum littered with dinner plates, silverware, lamp shades, bathtubs and, in the bow section, even human remains.

But diving isn't the only attraction in Townsville. Magnetic Island National Park and resort, just across Cleveland Bay, is a must-see for any visitor to Townsville. This mountain-



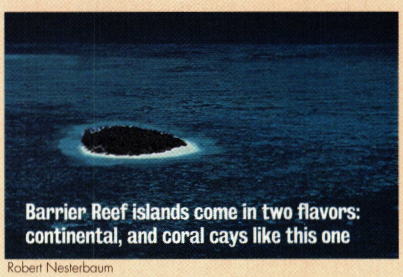
ous island is a great spot for swimming, hiking, bird watching, snorkeling, fishing and horseback riding. Access is by ferry, catamaran or water taxi. The Sheraton Breakwater Island Casino-Hotel brings a bit of glitz and glamour to Towns-ville, and the chance to win (or lose!) it all. A wide variety of restaurants, shopping and shows add to Townsville's cosmopolitan mix, while the Perc Tucker Regional Art Gallery adds a bit of cultural refinement.

Reef cruises, sailing, outback and rainforest tours, whitewater rafting—Townsville has something for everyone and don't leave without visiting the Great Barrier Reef Wonderland and Omnimax theater. This incredible aquarium features a touch-tank and a walk-through viewing tunnel.

Farther north is Cairns. As you fly into its international airport, you begin to understand why this city is considered the hub of Queensland's far north. Here, two distinct ecosystems converge along a spectacular coast-

Islands of the GREAT BARRIER REEF

THE MAINLAND CITIES OF THE QUEENSLAND coast offer a wide range of attractions, accommodations and liveaboard boats, but the islands of the GBR have a lot to offer as well. Offshore you will find everything from family resort islands to luxury seclusion, to dedicated dive resorts and uninhabited coral cays. Here's a brief list of a few of the highlights:



Barrier Reef islands come in two flavors: continental, and coral cays like this one

Robert Nesterbaum

Lady Eliot Island: Like Lady Musgrave and Heron islands, also on the southern reef, Lady Eliot is a true coral cay, a long way offshore and somewhat expensive. There is a dedicated dive resort with very basic accommodations. There is also an airstrip, making it a 30-minute flight from Bundaberg. There is no ferry service. The great thing about Lady Eliot is all the world-class diving you could want right off the beach.

Lady Musgrave Island: Just north of Lady Eliot, this is an uninhabited national park that also has great diving. Lady Musgrave is accessible by boat from Bundaberg, but the trip takes 2 1/2 hours each way, leaving only about four on the island. Camping is permitted and visiting yachts can anchor in the lagoon.

Heron Island: This national park also boasts superb diving. There is a basic lodge on the island and a comprehensive dive shop. No shore diving here, but in June airfills and boat charges are free. Heron is accessible by boat, but because it's a long way out it takes a while (two hours) and is not cheap. Helicopter service will get you there in 30 minutes. It's expensive, of course, but that incredible view is worth something, too.

The Keppels: These are continental islands, closer to the mainland, and most of the resorts cater to families. There is good diving around the islands, though it tends to be better around the outer islands. Day trips to the reef are available for divers, as are a wide variety of accommodations from luxury resorts to camping.

The Whitsundays: These islands, like the Keppels, are popular with families. There is good diving around the islands and high-speed catamarans to whisk you out to the reef. Accommodations run the gamut.

Magnetic Island: Virtually a suburb of Townsville, there is some island diving and plenty of day trips out to popular dive sites on Norman's, Hastings and Moore Reefs. Lots of cheap accommodations are available on Magnetic Island making it popular with budget travelers.

Orpheus Island: This national park has some good diving around its fringing reef. The resort on the island is somewhat pricey, but very nice. There are also campsites. Access is by seaplane directly to the resort from Cairns or Townsville, or by water taxi.

Fitzroy Island: One of the islands where budget travelers can feel at home, this is a good place to get back into diving before venturing out to the more exciting dives close by on Moore Reef.

Green Island: This is the most accessible of the GBR's true coral cays. It is a national park and the site of a luxury five-star resort. Divers who stay at Green are nicely positioned to dive Norman, Saxon and Hastings reefs.

Lizard Island: The closest continental island to the Barrier Reef, Lizard is a national park and not only has superb diving right off the island, but access to some of the GBR's best, including Ribbon Reefs and Cod Hole. It also has great snorkeling and perfect beaches. There is a good resort on the island. It is not for the budget travelers, but it is possible, though difficult, to camp. There is an airport on the island and daily flights from Cairns. There is no regular ferry service, but there are cruises that include Lizard and it may be possible to arrange something in Cairns.

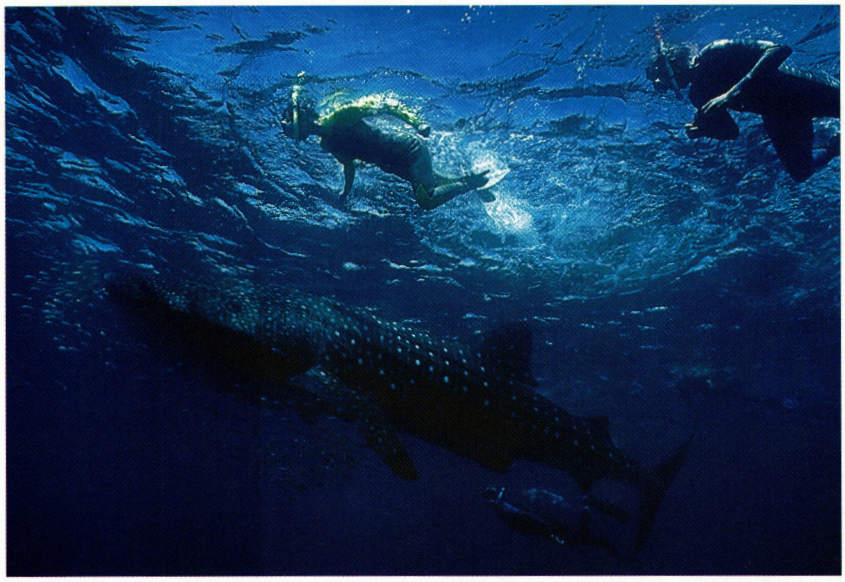
The Big Mouth in Exmouth

From late March to early May, divers from all over the world flock to the little subtropical town of Exmouth on the coast of western Australia to see one thing—the biggest fish in the world. *Rhincodon typus*—the whale shark—is reported to grow up to 60 feet in length, though 35- to 40-foot specimens are more common. However you measure them, these enormous filter feeders are hugely popular among divers with a taste for the unusual, but diving with the whale shark is not without its challenges. There is no guarantee of seeing the creature, despite the use of spotter planes, and, apart from the navy pier, few good diving alternatives exist in the area. Non-diving activities are also somewhat limited. This is a small town with only four hotels and a few camping parks. You can improve your chances of diving with these big fish dramatically by choosing an operator with a reasonable level of local experience. A live-aboard offers the most exposure, and therefore improves your chances of a sighting. Your best bet is an operator who uses spotter planes. The longer they have the plane in the air, the better your chances. With a little luck you should be rewarded with the unforgettable experience of an up-close encounter.

It's a common impulse to want to make physical contact with the animal, but it's best to avoid touching. If the animal can see you, there may be no harm done, but if you touch it beyond its range of view, the shark will often put its head down and swim off. This will cut short the visit and ruin the photographic opportunity for the whole group.

Water temperature: 78-84° F. Sea conditions: generally very calm. Weather: tends to be warm and dry with clear blue skies.

Transport: The quick way is to fly via Ansett to Learmonth (just south of Exmouth), though you can drive or bus from Perth.



Carl Roessler

Above: whale sharks are reliable visitors to Ningaloo Reef in western Australia during late March and early May; Below: Bommies attract huge schools of fish

line—towering mountain rainforest and tropical coral gardens. Whether you prefer diving and snorkeling on the reef, taking four-wheel-drive tours through remote rainforest or riding the train to the Atherton Tablelands, Cairns can accommodate you. Port Douglas, just 38 miles farther north, broadens the scope of possibilities.

Cairns sits on the edge of a small bay on Queensland's Marlin coast, at the foot of mountains cloaked in rainforest. Though modest in size at 55,000, the city has become a leading destination for Australians, and international visitors alike, and boasts a wide range of accommodations and services. Because it is so popular, advance booking is recommended.



Amos Nachoum

Shopping in Cairns is a good deal less hectic than in other tourist centers. Wander from shop to shop and relax in the tropical garden atmosphere amid the fragrant frangipani, swaying palms and colorful flowers. Wear a good pair of walking shoes and take a knapsack for carrying your souvenirs.

A convenient day trip, and a favorite among visitors, is the scenic Kuranda train to the village in the rainforest. This 100-year-old railway winds through 15 tunnels on its climb to the top of the Macalister Range by way of Barron Gorge. Kuranda's Wildlife Noctarium, Butterfly Sanctuary and Tjapukai Aboriginal Dance Theater are all popular attractions. Barron Gorge National Park offers camping, hiking, whitewater rafting and spectacular scenery including a number of beautiful waterfalls.

The nearby Atherton Tablelands make an interesting self-guided day-trip filled with geological wonders, mountains, plains, jungle and waterfalls. Rent a car and head through Kuranda on the Kennedy highway to Mareeba and Atherton. Return to Cairns on the Gilles highway by way of Gordonvale. This route will take

...akes of ...d Lake ...rk. Plan your trip ...diversion ... the ...ng regio... of ... Milla... Millaa. ...osts a whole fleet of day ... well as the majority of live-...s that visit the Coral Sea. Even ...e north the GBR lies a good 15 miles from shore, and even though Queensland boasts the speediest day-boats you'll find anywhere, live-aboards make a very attractive option. And the live-aboard fleet offers a wide variety of choices—from long-term cruises to remote areas in the Coral Sea, to the very popular and less expensive two- and-three-day cruises. Osprey, Shark, Bouganville, Holmes, Flora, Flinders, Abington, Malay—they are just a sampling of the reefs that make the longer Coral Sea cruises among the most unforgettable dive experiences in the world. In general, Coral Sea cruises are for the more experienced diver.

Many of the reef's most exotic sites are within reach from Cairns by day-boat. Thetford Reef, with its sand cays, walls, coral gardens, caves and the opportunity to hand-feed a giant Maori wrasse, is very popular. Hastings and Milln Reefs, both visited by day-boats offer good vertical walls and pelagics. Norman Reef is the location of a fully-roofed pontoon that serves as a base for dive-tenders to smaller nearby reefs.

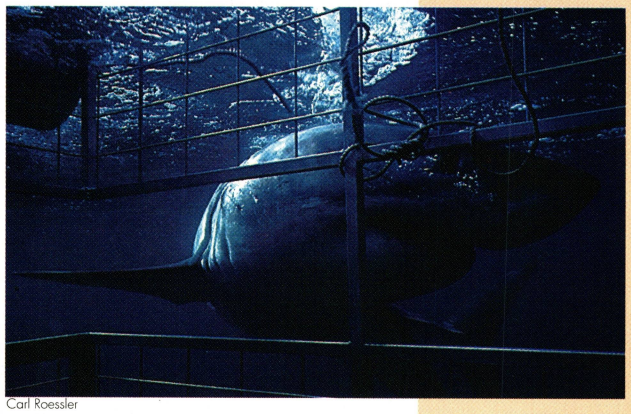
Michaelmas Cay is a breeding area for enormous seabird colonies and popular for snorkeling and one-day dive trips. South of Cairns, Moore Reef also has a covered pontoon and excellent day dives.

Port Douglas' proximity to the reef and its five-star Sheraton Mirage Hotel with a luxurious golf course and marina have turned this once sleepy fishing village into one of the country's leading tourist destinations. The marina is home to some of Queensland's most beautiful vessels and a good portion of the fleet is dedicated to shuttling visitors to the reef. Despite its growth, Port Douglas township has retained a quaint, quiet atmosphere. Its one-street shopping area, tucked away amid the greenery, offers a surprising range of interest and diversity. Three resorts, more than 45 hotels and four caravan (camping) parks, offer good options for accommodations, although again, advance booking is recommended.

The dive sites accessible from Port Douglas are the stuff of legends...



Jeanettea K. Hodges



Carl Roessler

Above: In addition to great diving, Queensland offers fascinating bush tours in its virgin rainforest; Right: There is nothing like the thrill of being in the water with the ultimate ocean predator.

The dive sites accessible from Port Douglas are the stuff of legends mak-

Continued on page 108

The Great AUSTRALIAN Bite

THERE IS NOTHING LIKE THE RUSH that comes with being in the water with the ocean's ultimate predator—the great white shark. You'll never know how insubstantial steel bars can seem until they are all that separates you from the gaping jaws and flashing teeth of a 16-foot great white rocketing past your cage like a runaway train. A terrifying savage death rising from the unfathomable blue depths—like other forms of extreme sport, it's all part of the fun.

Scary as it sounds, the real risk in booking a white shark trip is finding the whites at all. Like diving with whale sharks, there are no guarantees; and like the whale shark dive, an experienced operator can make all the difference between coming home on the afterglow of an incredible adrenalin high, or under a dark cloud of disappointment. Check out the operator's history and rate of success.

Once you're on the water patience is also important, since it often takes time for the sharks to pick up the trail of the bait. At around $4,000 for a 7-to 9-day trip, these excursions are expensive, though the price has come down from the $8,000 to $12,000 paid in years gone by. For the pure adrenaline junkie and the diver who simply appreciates one of nature's most impressive demonstrations of savage vitality, this is still a good value for the money.

Best time to go: January to April. Water temperature: 65-69° F. Sea conditions and weather: Vary from warm, calm and glassy to howling winds and rain.

Transport: Live-aboards depart from Adelaide and Port Lincoln.

YOU SAY TOBÄGO THEY SAY TOBĀG

As we slowly descend toward the Dragon's Mouth, I stare out a port window. In the channel, tiny mountainous islands, thick with vegetation, pierce the sea's surface like the green fangs of some monster. But I've borrowed the vision from Columbus. It was he who negotiated this narrow passage separating Venezuela and Trinidad, naming the place Dragon's Mouth when he sailed through in the summer of 1498.

But the journey of the islands in this channel is even more fantastic than the dragon's teeth of Columbus' imagination. Here the Peninsula de Paria of Venezuela reaches out to Trinidad and Tobago as if the continent remembers back some 10,000 years to when these islands were still a part of the mainland. Before the earth's tectonic plates bumped and ground into their present position, these tooth-like islands were attached to the tip of South America's Andes. It seems even a dragon can get its jaw relocated by Mother Nature.

BY JOEL SIMONETTI

Douglas Spranger

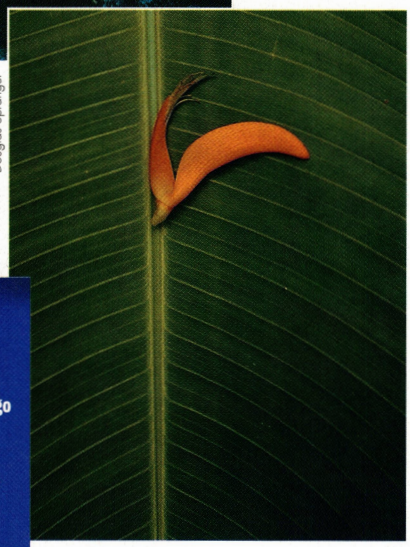


The plane brakes on the runway outside Port of Spain, Trinidad's capital. I won't be here long, I'm booked on the first flight to Tobago. I wonder though, if the same creatures that swim in a dragon's mouth also live in the waters off Speyside, a town on Tobago's eastern tip—my destination.

One of the most famous creatures that lives in Trinidad and Tobago's waters is the manta, the devilfish of lore. In his book, *The Ocean World*, Jacques Cousteau writes that fishermen warned him not to swim near mantas because they possessed hypnotic powers and would kill divers—wrapping their enormous wings around their human prey and drowning them. Today scientists know the great size of the manta is not due to their ferocity or consumption of novice divers, but comes as a result of the ocean's fecundity.



Douglas Spranger



Douglas Spranger

Left: The unique character of the Tobagonian waters nourishes an abundance of gorgonians and sponges. Below: Still life on a banana leaf. Tobago's rainforest is an ecosystem unique in the Caribbean.

The waters around Trinidad and Tobago are especially rich. Fed by the outflow of Venezuela's Orinoco River and the Guyana Current, which flows north along the South American coast, Trinidad's waters are so cloudy that,



except in the northeast corner of the island, there are no coral reefs. It's only around Tobago, even farther to the northeast, that the waters are clear enough for corals to grow.

But the plankton and the other small creatures on which mantas graze love the broth that bathes these islands.

Once before while diving in Curaçao I saw a manta swimming far off in the distance. But, like some elusive beauty of my adolescent years, I was never able to get close enough to really see her. For years this memory of a missed manta has haunted me far more than my first failed attempts at dating. But now, I'll have another chance. The Speyside waters are home to a resident population of mantas.

Speyside is situated on rainforest-covered slopes around a half-moon bay. Scattered in front of this village of 4,000 are a handful of rock islands—the two largest forested and the rest bare. Like other spectrally beautiful settings, Speyside possesses a vortex quality. It's a place where the farflung come together and mysterious things happen. Here the Atlantic and Caribbean meet. Here rainforest tumbles down mountains and steep cliffs to kiss the sea. Here waters that originate in the Amazon and Orinoco rivers mix. Here volcanic rock, over 100 million years old, still weathers winds that blow across the Atlantic from Africa.

Manta is my mantra as I hop aboard the Manta Lodge's pickup truck. Our divemaster, Anthony, 29, a son of Speyside, drives me and three strangers less than a quarter of a mile down the road and parks under a carport beside the beach. We assemble our gear and wait for Anthony. He has gone to wake up the boat driver, Renee, who'll take us out in his pirogue, a deep V-hulled open boat based on an Amerindian design still used by Tobagonian fishermen today. My companions and I make introductions amongst ourselves. There's Bob, a Trinidadian living in the U.K. whose hobby is wreck diving in the North Sea. And there are Willie and Jenny. He owns a dive shop in Barbados and she works there.

Anthony returns. We wade into the water and lift our gear up over the gunwales. It's only a five-minute ride to a group of rocks at the mouth of Bateau Bay. Here Speyside's mantas are often encountered and this fact is not lost in my thoughts. We roll backward off the pirogue—straight into last night's dinner.

Pumpkin soup. That's the best way to describe the visibility. A snowstorm of particles is suspended in the orange water. Our plan is to circle the rocks, but as we round the corner, we feel the fury of the current. Anthony switches directions, but the current is equally formidable on the other side. So we drift, through a maze of mounds, ledges and deep cuts. I lose my sense of direction as I discover Speyside's unique collection of creatures.

Instead of the hard corals common to other Caribbean dive destinations, in Speyside you're more likely to encounter sponges. Every square meter of the bottom is covered with them—elephant ear sponges, purple and yellow branching tube sponges, rope sponges and sponges peppered with anemone-like zooanthids. But it's the well-fed giant barrel sponges—five and six feet across—I find most striking. With design diversity that would please Frank Lloyd Wright, each has been uniquely molded by the current into the shape of an amphitheater.

With their rounded backs to the onslaught, they play to packed houses of small fish seeking protection from the current.

The angelfish here also eat well. Pairs of grey, French and queen angels as big as 20-pound turkeys swim up to me unafraid.

We surface nearly a half-mile south, but the boat is right there. Onboard Bob shakes his head. "The Orinoco must really be flooding," he says. "In 20 years I've never seen the visibility so poor."

Dominating the view from Speyside's shoreline are two green islands. The closest is hourglass-shaped Goat Island. On its narrow central isthmus stands a single white house at the water's edge. No doubt its former inhabitant, Ian Fleming, enjoyed the isolation he found there as he spun James Bond's adventures.

But it's along the second, uninhabited larger island of Little Tobago that we make our next dive. It's Willie and Jenny's last dive. Unfortunately their five days here have coincided with conditions of unusually poor visibility and they haven't seen a manta. I look at their long faces, and feel sorry for them in a superior kind of way. With six days of diving ahead of me, I'm confident my quest won't fail.

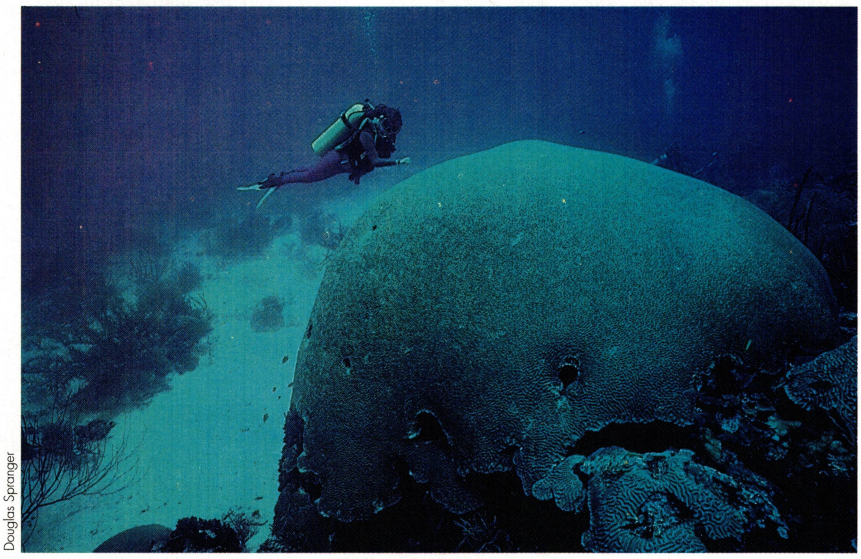
To build suspense, I'm supposed to keep it a secret a while longer, but let me tell you now: We see no mantas on this dive. The visibility can still be measured on the soup meter. It's 20, maybe 30 feet at best. But here I discover the currents that converge on Tobago, while retarding hard coral growth in some places, nurture freak-of-nature creations elsewhere. The Cathedral, a site along Little Tobago's lee, is populated by brain corals of extraordinary size. Amidst the constellation of tiny particles suspended in the water, these colonies of coral come into view like the lost moons of Jupiter. Many are more than 10 feet across and taller than Bond's nemesis Jaws. At another site lives the world's largest known brain coral—12 feet high and 16 feet across.

Something less spectacular also holds my attention on this dive—a soft, black coral attached to the rocks everywhere. From a single stalk, colonies of it spread their many-



Douglas Spronger

The diversity of Tobago's flora and fauna doesn't stop at the waterline.



Douglas Spranger

Get smart—the world's largest brain coral—12 feet high, 16 feet across

branching arms into the current. Is it some kind of sea rod? I put a note on my slate to look it up in Humann when I get back to the hotel.

A half hour later at the Manta Lodge, we rinse our gear in silence. A storm moves ashore. Shadows and rain fall upon us. Tomorrow, I decide, I'll take the day off and drive around Tobago.

Unlike other Caribbean islands, Tobago's terrestrial treasures rival the diversity of life found on its reefs. Two things make this so—the island's travels through geologic time, and one of the modern world's first acts of environmental conservation.

Like Trinidad, Tobago was once a land bridge across which migrated more species of plants, animals and insects than are found on any other island in the Caribbean, except Trinidad.

As I watch the sun rise from Flagstaff Hill, a lookout between Speyside and Charlottesville, I am greeted by a flock of 100 yellow-crowned parrots. Through my binoculars I also see yellowtails, a bird whose vocal range rivals Pavarotti, a cocrico, Tobago's national bird, and several blue-crowned mots-mots, a bird whose color and fancy tail compete with any fish of the reef. Offshore, to the north, I see St. Giles Island, a frigate bird sanctuary.

Tobago is home to more than 210 species of birds, 123 species of butterflies, 24 species of snakes, 16 species of lizards, and a dozen mammals. Their presence today is largely due to an act of preservation that predated the formation of America's national parks by more than a century. Motivated by plantation owners who wanted to protect the water supply for their cattle and crops, the Tobago Forest Reserve was set aside in 1765.

Driving along the narrow cliff-hugging coastal road around the western half of the island, I am never out of sight of the preserve. Except for a few scattered seaside towns and orchards, the forests grow down to the sea. And, as the 18th century planters intended, Tobago's thousands of streams and rivers still run pure. Along the Northside Road, there are numerous secluded coves and views across forest-covered peninsulas to the blue waters of the Caribbean. Later, under the watchful eye of a heron, I walk along the empty shore of Englishman's Bay. Here I read *Robinsoe Crusoe*, and still believe it possible.

The next day Anthony and I have been joined by eight German divers. Among them are three doctors, a dental hygienist, a nurse and an insurance salesman. I can already imagine us drifting along the reef with the stealth of a holiday parade.

Down below, however, my spirits lift. The visibility has doubled. I can see 50 to 60 feet. The German doctors, wearing matching yellow fins, race along at the head of the class. To avoid the crowd, I remain shallower where I can see clearly to the surface. My snobbiness is rewarded by bermuda chubs, barracuda, large dog

Continued on page 110

Marching to a Different Drummer

It should come as no surprise that the people who've made hanging out a high art also know how to party. Both require shedding inhibitions.

In Trinidad and Tobago when a group of friends gather on a street corner to chat and enjoy one another's company, it's called "limin."

In Port of Spain, Trinidad, in February, when thousands gather for a more than week-long costumed celebration, it's called Carnival.

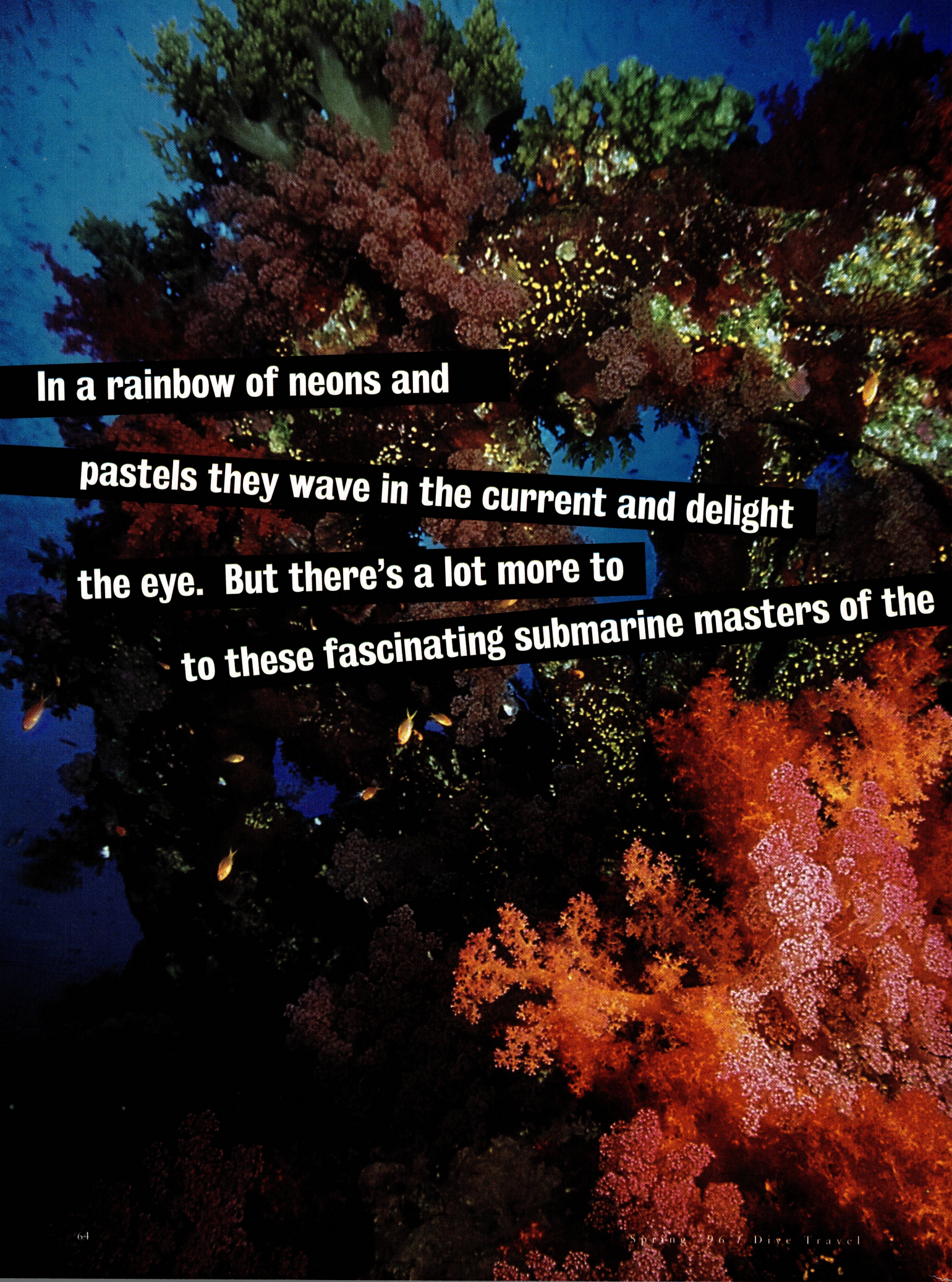
Carnival begins two days before Ash Wednesday. The elaborate costumes worn by carnival marchers—organized around a theme—can cost thousands of dollars, and consume as many hours of patient work.

Historians trace the roots of Carnival to French colonists of the 1780s who traditionally held a party season from Christmas to the first day of Lent. During this time disguised and costumed partygoers often walked through the streets, sometimes accompanied by musicians. In the early 19th century, when slaves were emancipated, Carnival grew as parties, previously held indoors, spilled out onto the streets.

Today costumed crowds of revelers are carried through the streets by the beat of calypso and steel drum music. Weeks before Carnival begins, calypso bands take to the streets. On any given night there might be as many as a dozen performing. Singers with stage names like the Shadow, Lord Kitchner, the Mighty Sparrow and Rose compete for the title of Calypso Monarch, and the privilege of having one of their songs chosen as the tune played the most throughout Carnival.

In the weeks preceeding the celebration, steel drum bands also compete to be chosen Carnival's best. The musicians of Trinidad and Tobago still make their own pans, as the drums are called. Craftsmen use the tops of oil drums and pound them into their familiar concave shape. They then use a hammer and chisel to create the indentations for the separate notes.


Photo by Ken Howard
In touch with
your spirit
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In a rainbow of neons and pastels they wave in the current and delight the eye. But there's a lot more to to these fascinating submarine masters of the

Ever drift by a rainbow of space alien broccoli growing on a wall or overhang, and wonder? Well, wonder no longer. You have just crossed over to...

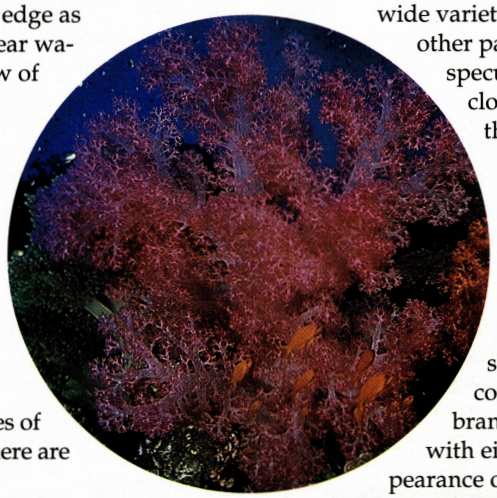
The Secret World of Soft Corals

Story and Photos by Mike Hurley

Welcome to the world of dendronephthya hydraulic arts than decoration.

Divers in the United States are lucky to have an exciting saltwater realm like the Caribbean just a stone's throw away. There are so many great dive sites that it may take many years of scuba before we venture beyond those southern shores. However, should you yearn to explore some of the more exotic locations, you'll hear the steel drums fade out and the tonga drums fade in. Two-hundred-foot palm trees lean out over the beach's edge as you take that first plunge into the clear waters of the South Pacific. The rainbow of colors hits you like a kaleidoscopic freight train at full speed.

There are a number of reasons that make the Indopacific (including the Indian Ocean, the South Pacific and the Red Sea) so spectacular. The geographic triangle consisting of the Philippines, Indonesia and New Guinea has the highest diversity of marine life found anywhere in the world—a ratio rated at about ten to one. That means, if there are 60 species of fishes living in the Caribbean, then there are 600 in the Indopacific!



Perhaps the most striking element is the Indopacific's abundant, colorful, soft coral "broccoli trees" known to the scientific community as *dendronephthya*. "Dendro" is the largest genus of all soft corals, containing more than 250 described species. The brilliant corals that range in color from rich pastel pinks, reds and purples, to neon yellow, orange, green and blues, even bright white, are not found in the Caribbean. For the last 6 to 10 million years, the isthmus of Panama has been an effective barrier preventing currents from the Indopacific from relocating the wide variety of plants, fishes and corals to other parts of the world. Some scientists speculate that before the isthmus was closed, the oceans shared species throughout their entire range.

Dendros are different from other types of corals that have a solid calcium carbonate center structure. Although they do have calcium spicules embedded in their fleshy bladder-like stalks, they don't rely on calcium carbonate for a solid skeleton. Instead, "tree" corals are comprised of balloon-like stalks and branches that have individual polyps with eight tentacles each, giving the appearance of leaves at the end of their branches. These corals utilize hydraulic pressure to inflate themselves with water to as much as eight feet in length, extending out away from the reef or wall. The coral inflates by creating an inner current with pulsating cilia attached to "threads" just inside each polyp. As the cilia beat, the coral inflates or deflates. When the current is

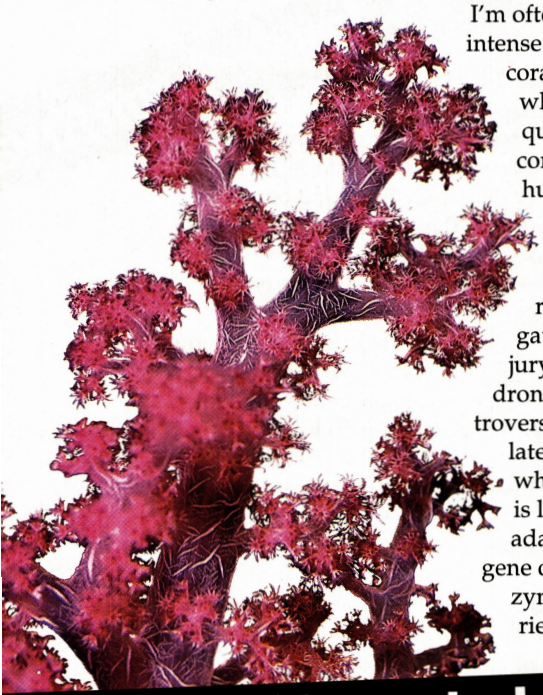
running and their food source is at its peak, the corals will expand to their largest proportions to increase the chances of snaring food. This is the most dramatic time to see them. A diver can sometimes float along the reef for an entire dive in an uninterrupted display of dazzling colors.

This is also the time when the coral is most vulnerable. As a defense, corals will completely deflate themselves, concentrating their spiny spicules to act as an effective deterrent to predation. When the current is still and the chance for dinner is low, the corals deflate and shrink, becoming quite dull, and looking almost dead. I've been on a dive where we were all treated to a dramatic display of color and life, and the next group that went in said there were no soft corals on that reef at all!



Soft corals bloom in nearly all the world's tropical seas except the Caribbean. They occur in a wide variety of spectacular colors and are at their best in areas of vigorous current.

Unlike other corals, dendros do not rely on symbiotic algae and photosynthesis for nutrition, and therefore can flourish in shadowed areas of the reef like caves and overhangs. They feed on organic matter brought to them by the current, utilizing stinging cells for stunning very small prey much as anemones do.



I'm often asked about the intense colors of my soft coral photographs—which leads to the question of why the corals are so brightly hued. Unlike fishes or nudibranchs, which have very specific and known reasons for their gaudy palettes, the jury is still out on dendronephthya. One controversial theory speculates neutral traits, where color selection is linked to another adaptive or selective gene or necessary enzyme, and simply carries the color gene along with it. Or, it may just be a matter of polymorphism—a variety in nature. Many biologists don't believe the bright colors are a warning of toxins as in some animals we know of, since many species of coral possess toxins yet are dull in coloration. Additionally, the depth at which many of these corals are found makes the coral's colors appear completely muted to hues of brown, green or blue.

Coral reproduction is also quite interesting. When breeding time comes, eggs or sperm sacs contained on tiny filaments, like grapes on threads, hang down inside the polyp just below the mouth. The eggs can be fertilized externally by exiting the polyp through the mouth to find sperm that have been released by another coral, or internally when the sperm enters through the mouth of the polyp to find the egg. The fertilized embryos soon become larvae. Wide-dispersal corals have larvae that are known as planula larvae. These coral babies join the plankton in the current and take on the appearance of ciliated protozoans. They'll float along until they find a suitable rocky surface to grow on. Soft corals that generally stay in colonies have larvae that crawl out of the polyp and down the coral stalk to attach themselves just a few centimeters from their parents, and families are limited to a small area of the reef. Soft corals attach themselves to rocky substrate in much the same way that an anemone or kelp does. A soft coral holdfast utilizes a pedal disk containing sticky cells that bond it to the rock. The adhesion is so strong that dead and decaying soft corals have been found still bonded

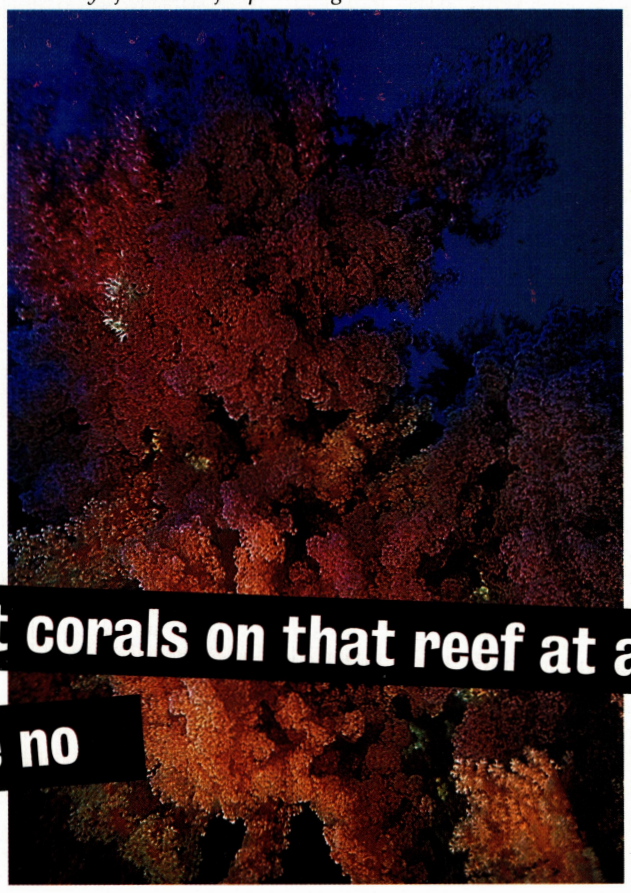
We were all treated to a dramatic display of color and life, and the next group said there

solidly to the substrate.

Many species of animal live around or on dendros. There is evidence of a few species of copepods having an active symbiotic relationship with dendronephthya. Soft corals make a perfect hiding place for tropical fish and other brightly colored animals. Lionfish can go virtually undetected as they hunt among the brightly-hued corals, camouflaging themselves in neon colors. Small gobies and several species of crabs are often found living along the branches. Clouds of orange anthias or goldfish are often found surrounding large outcroppings of soft corals. Basket stars will often set up shop at the edge of a feeding soft coral extension to feed as far out as possible in the night currents.

The best time to see fully blooming soft corals is when the current is running. Some experienced divemasters are extremely adept at reading the current and getting divers in the water just as the current is starting to slow down. It may take awhile for the corals to deflate, leaving you free to swim in all directions exploring the broccoli gardens. This really is the magic hour, but be careful; I've been disappointed on a number of occasions when the current reading didn't quite live up to expectations. Getting right in the middle of a real ripper is almost always a sure thing.

Special thanks to Dr. Gary Williams of the California Academy of Sciences for providing technical assistance.



were no soft corals on that reef at all!

5 great sites to see soft corals

Soft corals live in most tropical waters of the world except, unfortunately, the Caribbean, so you'll have to travel a little farther to take advantage of the spectacular displays of color. But some other advantages come with this exotic travel—more species of fish to enjoy and exotic cultures to discover topside. Soft corals normally bloom in vigorous current, so find an operator that will do some drift diving. If you have to moor and swim back to the boat, chances are you'll miss the best of any reef.

1 Fiji

Fiji is on most photographer's destination lists for colorful images. The Somosomo Straits, the Great White Wall, Yellow Grotto and Beqa Lagoon will all net a speedy view of spectacular soft corals as you drift by in the swift Fijian currents.

2 The Red Sea

The northern area near Hurgada or Sharm el Sheikh can be good, but the best bet is about 20 miles south. The Brothers Islands are my favorite sites for soft coral explosions, along with Shark Island and Zabargad.

3 Palau

Palau has great soft coral walls—masses of multi-hued corals that spread out as far as you can see. This soft coral proliferation is often overshadowed by the incredible pelagic activity—mainly sharks; it's an exciting place to dive.

4 Solomon Islands

If the little things are your bag, this is the place for you. There is so much life per square foot you can spend an entire day and explore only a few yards of the reef. The soft coral gardens here contain an enormous number of micro critters.

5 Truk Lagoon

The wrecks are 50 years old and covered with soft corals. The irony of so much life growing out of so much destruction is ironic and a little spooky. If you like a little history and wreck diving with your soft coral expedition, Truk Lagoon is the perfect choice.

John Newman



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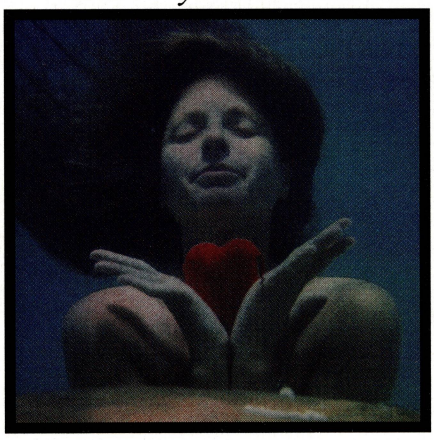
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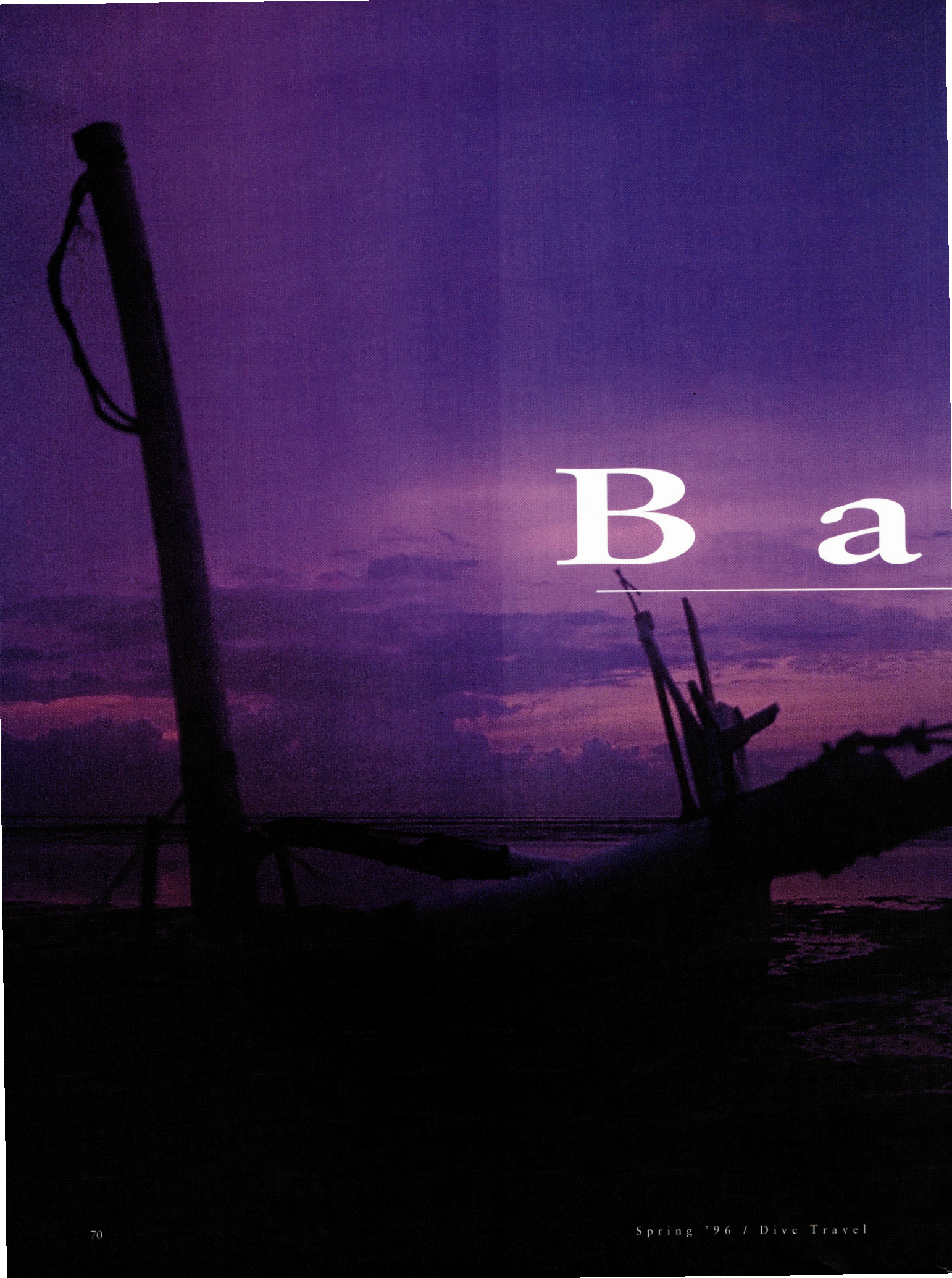
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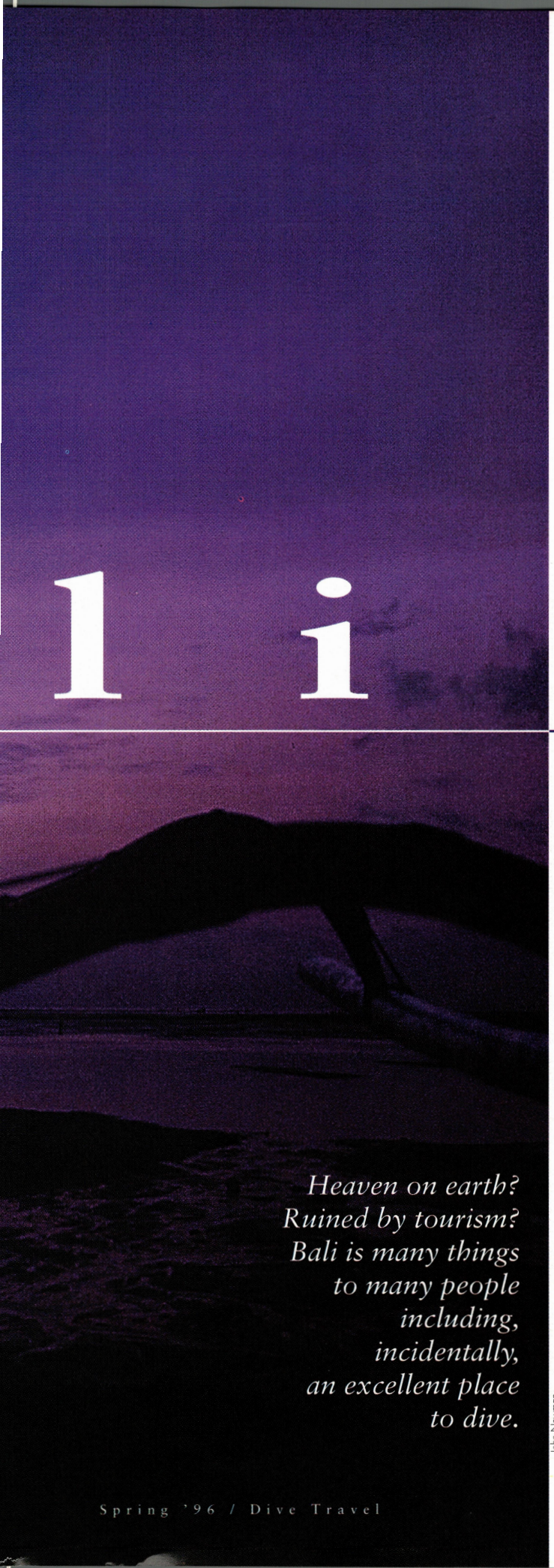
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B a

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Heaven on earth? Ruined by tourism? Bali is many things to many people including, incidentally, an excellent place to dive.

John Newman

BY CARL PARKES

We touched down at Ngurah Rai Airport and grabbed a cab into Kuta Beach, the wild child of Bali and once considered, along with Kabul and Kathmandu, one of the three essential Ks on the international travel circuit. Formerly the haunt of backpackers and crazed hippies, Kuta has devolved into the bar and disco center of the Indonesian universe—a drunken, pickup scene for young Australians on a one-week bender. The sight of pesky vendors and countless t-shirt emporiums forced me to find lodgings a few miles north in the quieter enclave of Seminyak, where my simple but adequate bungalow overlooked some brilliant rice paddies flanked by swaying palm trees. In less than one hour I had experienced the two faces of this schizophrenic island.

Ruined by tourism. Heaven on earth. Nothing but mobs of drunken Aussies and polyester-clad tourists. The last paradise. You should have been here 20 years ago. Eternal island of the gods. These conflicting opinions are so commonly offered that many travelers make a conscious effort to skip the island and proceed directly to some neighboring paradise—perhaps Lombok or Flores, or the islands off the western coast of Sumatra.

Before collapsing into bed, I managed to down a few cold beers at Madeís Warung and make arrangements for a three-day dive excursion to nearby Lembongan Island. Unknown to most visitors, Bali offers superb diving over iridescent coral gardens teeming with marine life. Novices often start with a snorkeling excursion to the



Women greeting each other at temple on Nusa Lembongan

Matthew Wakem

coral reefs just offshore from the upscale beach resorts of Sanur and Nusa Dua, then hook up with a reputable dive operator for more exotic adventures: the wreck of an American Liberty ship in the extreme northeast corner of the island and renowned Menjangan Island in the northwest. Bali has the best dive facilities in Indonesia. With most companies, expect to pay $30-50 per dive, $80 for an introductory one-day course, and $250-350 for a four-day PADI certification program. Experienced divers can upgrade their skills with advanced courses in night diving, wreck diving and undersea rescue.

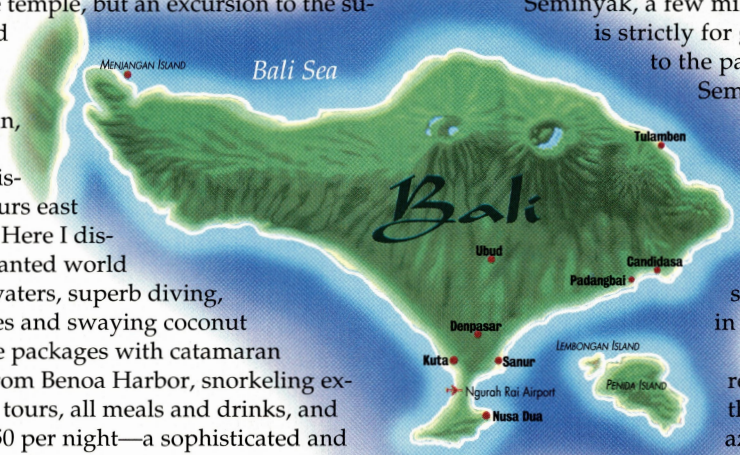
After Kuta, I was searching for rest and relaxation—not sunken wrecks or undersea rescue. The solution wasn't a bowl of mushroom soup or an evening of dance in some obscure Balinese temple, but an excursion to the superbly appointed and divinely secluded resort on Nusa Lembongan, a small and unspoiled satellite island just two hours east of Sanur Beach. Here I discovered an enchanted world of crystal clear waters, superb diving, sparkling beaches and swaying coconut palms. Complete packages with catamaran transportation from Benoa Harbor, snorkeling excursions, village tours, all meals and drinks, and room start at $150 per night—a sophisticated and memorable escape from mainland Bali.

Lembongan, some 16 miles east of Sanur, is also known for its superb surfing over three well-named reef breaks (Shipwreck, Playground and, best of all, Lacerations), and



Dancers at the full moon festival in Tulamben

F. Stuart Westmorland



the relaxed pace of life: no bemos, no motorcycles, and nobody is trying to sell you something. My first day was spent gazing at the beach and grazing upon one of the best seafood buffets in the archipelago, arranged and hosted by William Quinlan (Mr. Bill) of Wakalouka Cruises. The following days started with a dip in the pool and a brief wander through the jungle, then an afternoon of diving the reefs just north of the resort and exploring the underwater grottos off nearby Nusa Penida—an excellent introduction to the underwater world of eastern Indonesia.

Refreshed from my three-day escape, I returned to Kuta to experience life in the belly of the beast. As I discovered during my preliminary research, selecting a hotel or resort destination with the perfect ambiance can be somewhat tricky, in part because there is so much choice. Four decades of tourism have provided Bali with a half-dozen each resorts and upland towns with distinct personalities that attract different breeds of travelers. I was looking for something between the blue-haired set and surfers hellbent on death by party.

Sanur Beach—the original resort area on the island—has escaped wholesale commercialization and retained the atmosphere of a quiet seaside village. . . a bit too quiet for most visitors without a pacemaker. Another possibility is the planned resort community of Nusa Dua, the southern beach enclave which hosted Ronald Reagan on his Bali visit in 1987. So consuming is the artificiality that Reagan never left the confines of Nusa Dua to see what makes Bali such as world-famous travel destination.

Aside from a few other more remote beach destinations (Candidasa, Lovina Beach), the choice falls between the four beach districts that comprise Kuta: Tuban to the south, Kuta proper, Legian and Seminyak, a few miles north of Kuta corner. Tuban is strictly for group tourists while Kuta caters to the party animals, but Legian and Seminyak are both relatively peaceful neighborhoods with easy access to the bars and nightclubs of Kuta Beach. I prefer the perfect stillness of Seminyak, but others may favor the guesthouses and small hotels on Jalan Rum Jungle in Legian.

Two nights of partying in Kuta redirected my energies toward the peaceful world beneath the azure seas. My second dive excursion took me east to the coastline that stretches from Padangbai to Candidasa, specifically Pura Jepan and Blue Lagoon near Padangbai, the underwater canyons at Tepekong Island near Candidasa, and

Dr. Faust, Green Oz and the Solid Gold Meteorite

By John Newman

Bali is a myth, a place that lives in the imagination of even those who have never been there and barely heard of it. Pick up any guidebook, look at any travel film—when speaking of Bali the facts will not suffice. Sweat and bullying and flogging a whole purple legion of adjectives are no help at all. Bali is not like other places. It is not an island east of Java, the way Lombok and Sumbawa are—it is mists and magic—a gangrenous green Oz, a sweet and fecund Shangri-la, and somehow, the perfect stage for the drama of innocent bliss and foul corruption.

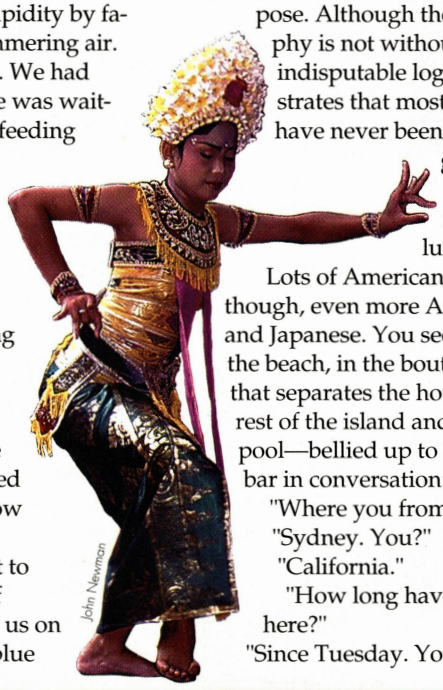
It doesn't even wait until you're on the ground. It rises up to meet you crossing the necklace of coral fringing the isthmus on the approach to Ngurah Rai Airport—thick violent green, slender silver palm trunks and, farther on, the scabrous concrete lesion of Kuta. Outside the airport thousands of voracious tour guides and porters wait to feast on the new marks—stunned into helpless stupidity by fatigue and the blast of simmering air.

But we were prepared. We had arrangements. Our guide was waiting to pluck us from the feeding frenzy and in minutes we were hissing down the rain-streaked highway for Sanur Beach and its hotels. We had arranged a day of topside sightseeing and Westmorland, as always, was anxious to play with his lenses.

"First we will go to the hotel," our guide informed us. "Tomorrow I will show you Bali."

But Bali was impatient to show itself. Hundreds of young Balinese tore past us on tiny motorbikes rolling blue smoke and screeching near bearing seizure. Brown feet, billowing shirts, dazzling grins and terrifying optimism in gold neckchains and levis. Next to the road, thigh-deep in a wet rice paddy, a farmer drove his buffalo between a berm of chocolate earth and a KFC outlet. Next door, three soot-streaked children dug through a heap of smoldering garbage.

Hotels are the big dogs on the island and they sprawl along Sanur Beach end to end, staking claim to nearly every inch of sand—an arrangement that ruffles no feathers among the Balinese. As far as they're concerned the sea is an ominous underworld squirming with slimy slugs and sharks and poisonous snakes. Nothing worthwhile would inhabit the shore of such a diabolic cesspool. Blessings descend from on high, from the salubrious mountains—the airy realm of goodness and wholesome vigor. It follows that only an idiot would want to submerge himself in the ocean on purpose. Although their philosophy is not without a certain indisputable logic, it demonstrates that most Balinese have never been on the grounds of these incredibly opulent luxury digs.



John Newman

Lots of Americans have though, even more Australians and Japanese. You see them on the beach, in the boutique zone that separates the hotels from the rest of the island and in the pool—bellied up to the poolside bar in conversation:

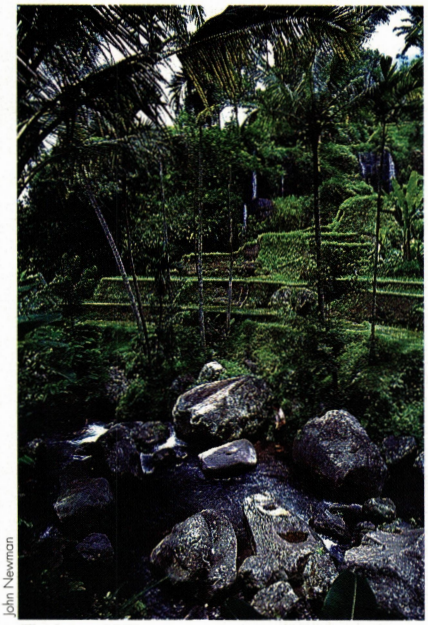
"Where you from?"

"Sydney. You?"

"California."

"How long have you been here?"

"Since Tuesday. You?"



John Newman

The intrepid Wayan scouts a trail through the bouldered gorge of Gunung Kawi

"We've been here a week, but day after tomorrow we'll be flying out to see some more of Indonesia.'

"Indonesia? Where's that? Near the Philippines?"

Our guide called at the hotel that evening—groveling, seized with miserable contrition. Nothing could calm him down—due to unforeseen circumstances he would be unable to show us Bali the next morning as he had promised. An unbelievable catastrophe. Unforgivable. He would, however, put a driver at our disposal who would take us anywhere we wished to go. It was just as well. As a congenital screw-off myself, people of industry make me nervous.

There are a few scheduled stops that every tourist must make—the dance theater in Batubulan for the daily performance of the Barong, and the Monkey Forest near Ubud. We did both, of course. The dance is staged exclusively for the camera-strap yokels that fly in from every corner of the globe just like they do for the Don Ho show in Waikiki. But never mind the venue, those dancers know their business, especially those gorgeous young women. Nothing could disguise the fantastic acumen of their angelic hands and feet, or the gamelan—shimmering like the sound track to an acid trip. The Monkey Forest was closed, but the monkeys knew the score. They

Continued on page 112

the sheer walls off Gili Biaha to the northeast of Candidasa.

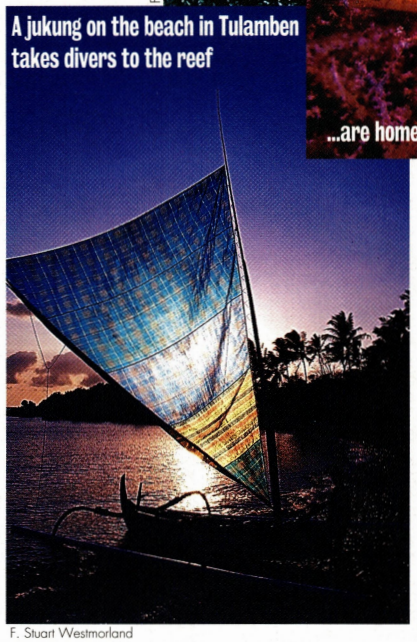
Dive sites near Candidasa are usually reached in small outriggers known as jukung, painted with all-seeing eyes to help the wooden vessel find its way through turbulent waters. Although the waters are surprisingly chilly and visibility may be limited due to strong northeastern currents, Candidasa is known for its tremendous schools of fish which dart and hide within the stony corals and irregular pinnacles, and Tepekong Canyon considered by many experienced divers one of the best dives in Indonesia, it is also one of the most difficult. Two days of diving uncovered a great range of marine life, from varieties of groupers and sweetlips to Moorish idols and pelagic fish rarely seen in tamer waters. But you'll need to hang on: ripping currents make this region a difficult assignment for the uninitiated.



The spectacular soft corals thrive in Indonesia's vigorous currents...

...are home to creatures like this hawkfish

F. Stuart Westmorland



A jukung on the beach in Tulamben takes divers to the reef

F. Stuart Westmorland

Moving farther east around the island—past the wonderful vistas from Tirtagangga—lie two of Bali's best dive sites: Cemeluk (also called Amed) and the wreck of the *Liberty* near the village of Tulamben. Both can be reached with an organized dive package, or by rental car along a winding road that passes through some of the most spectacular landscapes on the island—no traffic, no telephone wires and no tourists. . . little more than isolated hamlets and curiously soulful Balinese cattle that resemble overgrown deer.

Cemeluk, two miles from Amed, boasts the finest coral beds on Bali and rivals the teeming reefs of Manado and eastern Flores. Once again, the expanses of staghorn acropora and staggering schools of fish are reached by jukung, the traditional fishing outrigger of the Balinese, although great diving can be done right off the beach. After a morning of superb diving, we raced seven miles north to dive the immediately adjacent wreck of the *Liberty*—the most popular dive site on the island. A 395-foot U.S. Army cargo ship constructed in 1918, the *Liberty* was torpedoed in the Lombok Strait in 1942 by the Japanese. It limped to Tulamben and finally sank just 40 yards off the shore. Today, divers need only walk to the beach, don their gear, and swim out to the broken hulk, now home to a tremendous array of sea life. Don't expect to find any interesting souvenirs, though. The ship was completely stripped years ago. Part of the superstructure is even accessible to snorkelers.

After 10 days of diving, sailing, partying and learning about Balinese culture, I left for my final dive destination on the northwestern tip of the island. Few travelers make the long and winding drive along the north coast, but the rarely visited region boasts secluded coastlines, beach resorts both simple and exclusive, mountain hikes, Buddhist retreats, abundant waterfalls, painted temples seething with baroque carved figures, and untouched marine reserves far off the beaten path.

Sometimes the most interesting way to travel is without expectations, with a shot of spontaneity or even recklessness. You never know what to expect when you go beyond the prescribed boundaries, though unexpected discoveries often compensate for the unease of remote destinations. And so it was with Pemuteran and Menjangan Island, two isolated dive sites at the end of a very long and tiring road.

In Pemuteran, the atmosphere was more than idyllic and almost a half-dozen excellent dive sites were within easy striking distance. Nearly all of these sites boast good visibility and hardly any current, making them a good choice for beginners. Afterwards we moved east to vast Napoleon Reef, a pancaked coral garden the size of a football field and home to endless barrel sponges, acropora, cuttlefish and occasional manta rays.

Our final day of diving was spent just off nearby Menjangan Island, a protected marine reserve within the confines of Bali Barat National Park. Once again, we discovered untouched coral reefs and the bewildering variety of sea life that can only be found in the warm waters of Indonesia. Menjangan enjoys a protected position so current and wind-chop are seldom a problem, making it another excellent site for beginning divers. Our sense of serendipity had paid off—in just under two weeks we had found the heart and soul of the real Bali.

The Islands Of



F. Stuart Westmorland

Micronesia

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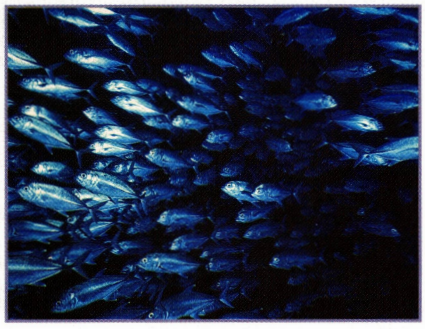
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of Truk

Exploring The sunken Japanese naval fleet in Truk Lagoon is a thrilling underwater adventure. The marine life and historical artifacts of these WWII wrecks are accessible to both the advanced and beginning diver. The masts of some reach almost to the surface and some of the sunken planes can even be accessed by snorkelers.

Sitting upright on the sand bottom, the wreck of the *Hanakawa Maru*, sunk near Tol harbor, is one that can be dived by beginners. The bow of this 360-foot armed destroyer rests in 40 feet of the water and bow sits at 65 feet. It's deck and rails are covered with thick pink and white soft corals, anemones and sea fans, considered to be among the most beautiful in the lagoon. A vibrant coral grouper can usually be found hanging below the railings and anemone fish have made homes on the stern railings and the kingpost. The mast rises to within 15 feet of the surface where giant sea fans have spread their lacey pink arms to filter the passing current.

Because this wreck is a long way from Moen and was known to be carrying caustic chemicals it was off limits to divers until quite recently. The chemicals have dissipated, although it still wise not to attempt to penetrate the wreck. No need, anyway. The exterior provides plenty of interest—marine life is plentiful and the structure has been well preserved and is carpeted with black and tubastrea coral. Let it remain a silent memorial to the unfortunate victims of WWII.

—Louisa Preston

Catch the latest from these



Louisa Preston

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Letter from the

FLOWER GARDEN BANKS

Greetings from the Gulf Coast,

You know that old saying about the right place, the right time? Serendipity and synchronicity.... It was one of those times....an underwater symphony, an erotic marine extravaganza, a polyp party of enormous proportions—definitely worth more than a postcard home.

As the producer for the underwater television series "Dive World," I'm fortunate to experience some truly breathtaking things in the watery places of the world. It's been just a little more than year since I became a certified diver as part of the requirements for this work. And as a new member of the scuba community, of course every dive is an eye-opening adventure. But this trip

BY JOHN T. WARNER

As the producer for the underwater television series "Dive World," I'm fortunate to experience some truly breathtaking things in the watery places of the world



PHOTOS BY
DAVID BULL





particular trip was special. On this trip, my team filmed a mass coral spawning at Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary in the Gulf of Mexico.

Located 100 miles off the coast of Freeport, Texas, Flower Garden Banks is renowned for its unique coral and marine life—a reputation it has held since the 1800s when fishermen named the area for the flowery coral, sponges and fish they found nearby. Divided into two banks, east and west, the sanctuary covers a 41-square-mile area, with the accessible reef crests running about 350 acres total.

The distance to the Banks means travel aboard a live-aboard—an eight-hour ride from Freeport, a quiet Gulf Coast burg where oil refineries and commercial fishing have both set down roots. Our journey began one August evening on the main charter boat to visit the Banks, the *M/V Fling*, a 100-foot vessel that carries 34 passengers and a crew of six. On board, our film crew met with the groups of scientists from the Flower Garden Banks Sanctuary and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), all of whom were gathered for the anticipated coral spawning. As the muted lavender of twilight settled around the sparkling lights of the oil platforms that dot this region of the Gulf, we got underway, sharing notes and plans for the five-day trip ahead.

Mantas flock to the area around the time of the coral spawning, drawn to the reefs by the prospect of plankton.

The main objective of the trip's scientific focus was to collect specimens from the spawning for research and DNA studies. Other participants planned fish counting projects, turtle research and water studies, to name just a few. While this expedition was mainly scientific in nature, a group of volunteer recreational divers was also aboard to help with the overall effort. I was encouraged to see these divers getting active in protecting the fragile underwater world.

Our first day of diving opened with 100 foot visibility, very calm seas and no current—the perfect opportunity to get a good look at these twin salt domes that rise from the ocean floor 400 feet below to within 50 feet of the surface. As we scouted various areas of the sanctuary, I was amazed by the giant coral formations—mountainous star corals, giant brain corals and beautiful flower corals—more than 21 varieties in all. This was the first time I had experienced this type of marine life.

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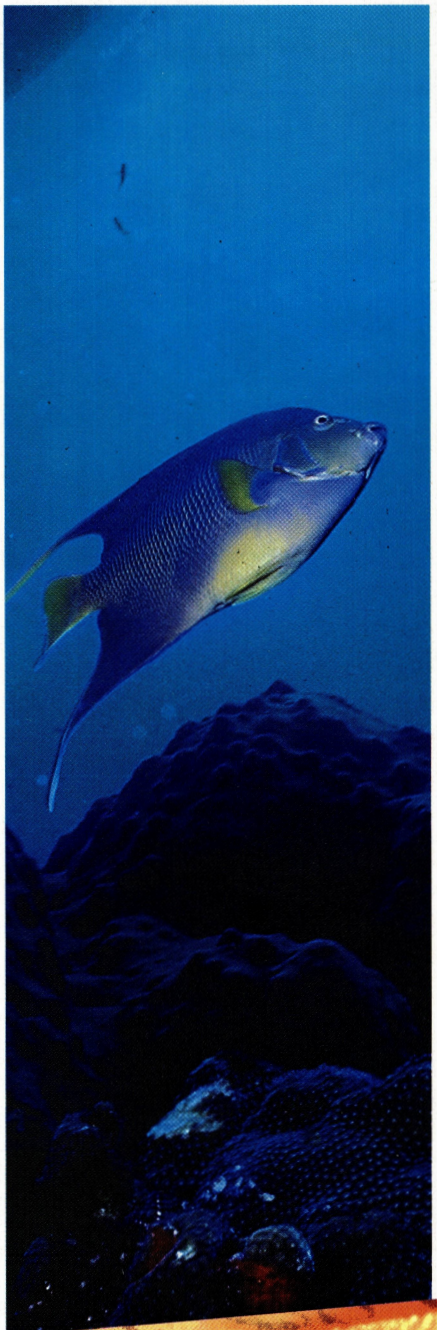
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More than 250 species of reef invertebrates and more than 175 species of reef fish inhabit the Flower Gardens region. My favorite turned out to be the large mantas, barrel-rolling through the limpid water. Apparently, as the biologists explained, they flock to the area around the time of the coral spawning, drawn to the reefs by the prospect of plankton.

The best was yet to come though. I spent most of the second day doing on-camera interviews in an effort to save myself for what I hoped would be nocturnal success—capturing the mass coral spawning on camera. As the sun dropped below the horizon, the group milled in anticipation of the Big Event. I, too, was anxious to get in the water. The trick with this type of filming is to be in the right place at the right time.

Dr. Stephen Gittings, the Sanctuary Manager, rounded up the group to work out the logistics for the evening dive. The first group entered the water. Equipped with nitrox that would allow them extended bottom time, they spoke to us through underwater voice communication systems, alerting us when the spawning was ready to start. It was a short wait.

We dropped down through the dark water toward the scene below—a shot straight out of *Close Encounters*. The lights of 34 divers swept the coral heads, illuminating the curve of a giant brain coral, next the mounded heads of a blushing star coral. At 100 feet, our group checked in with the various team leaders in an effort to find the best spot. My dive buddy, Kalle Tsapis, who is also one of our videographers, spotted something of interest and beckoned me over.

In a small canyon of star coral, the spawning began. First a few gamete bundles, tiny blobs of biomass the size of a BB, lifted off the coral and then, in a moment, hundreds of bundles thickened the sea around us. A gamete bundle contains the sperm and eggs of the coral. Sometimes difficult to express in words, all I could think was how this seemed like a magnificent symphony or ballet. We rolled the underwater cameras. To see these corals come to life was an amazing experience. This was definitely it—the absolute right place at the positively right time.

All I could think was how this seemed like a magnificent symphony or ballet

Kalle and I were consumed in the task of capturing this event, so much in fact that we were only reminded of our limitations when my dive computer sounded the retreat alarm. Looking at the computer display, I realized we had drifted down to 114 feet in all the excitement. Time to head for the surface. We started slowly back up, cameras still rolling, as we passed bundle after gamete bundle—millions of corals in the making.

Four hours later, we were back in the water again. The spawning process continued for several evenings. As explained by Dr. Gittings, some years the corals spawn all at once, and some years over a period of several evenings, usually eight evenings after the full moon in early August or September. Much of this is dependent on a handful of factors, the moon and the water temperature, mainly.

The whole five-day trip was a once-in-a-lifetime event—great food, courteous crew, many new friends. Like all trips, this one was too short and we're indeed fortunate to have a superb visual record of the whole experience. If you want to make this trip for yourself, I would strongly recommend it as a great chance to see something unique.

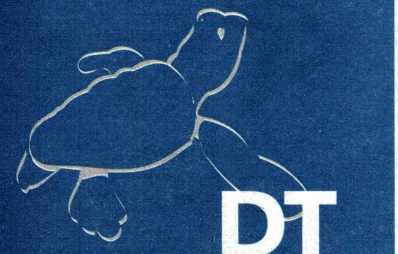
Well, that's all for now. I'm off to another field shoot—this time the Sunshine State and the Florida Aquifer to film the deepest penetration into the cave system there that's ever been done. What's next? Ask my executive producer.

Safe and fun diving to all,

John

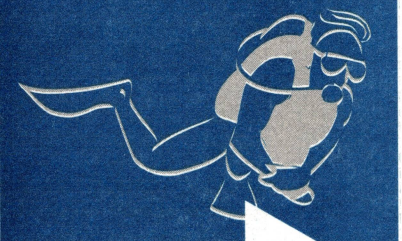


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178	WaterWays Travel	See ad pg. 20,25
179	World Wide Vacations	See ad pg. 110

To Join our new classified section and guide to local dive stores, here's what you have to do... Send a check/credit card information along w/ your copy. The cost is $4.00 per word, not exceeding 30 words.
For more information about advertising in our internet site (**http://www.divetravel.com**),
please call: **Wayne Morgan, Advertising Manager, 408-459-6188**

CLASSIFIEDS

TRAVEL

US/Florida

Key West-Southpoint Divers
2 Pro 42 Jet Boats. PADI 5 Star. All levels of training through instructor. Wonderful dive packages. 714 Duval St., Key West, FL
Call: 800-824-6811. Southpoint@aol.com

Mexico/Pacific

Baja Expeditions-Sea of Cortez, La Paz Live-aboard and hotel based diving packages. Socorro Island manta expeditions, whale shark expeditions.
Call: 800-843-6967

US/Pacific

Jack's Diving Locker
"Our friendly people make the difference." Kona's oldest full-service dive center. Jack's has two boats to offer: a six-passenger, 23-foot Mako; and a 12-passenger, 38-foot Lightning. We keep our groups small and personal with a guide for up to six divers. A PADI 5-star facility, a NAUI dream resort and an SSI resort member. Our friendly, experienced staff teaches all levels of scuba from introductory dives to divemaster, including the first PADI manta ray specialty certification. Call us at: 1-800-345-4807, or (808) 329-7587

RENTALS

Key Largo Deluxe Condo - Best dive sites in the U.S. Pool, Tennis, Marina, Sleeps 6
Call: (516) 379-5059

Unusual Villas & Rentals Corp. of America.
800 acre private Darby Island, 14 miles north of Great Exumas. 2-16 people from $220 pp, per day. Includes 5 servants, 3 meals a day. Great diving with 7,000 ft. walls, 7,000 sq. ft. castle.
Call: 800-768-0280

INSTRUCTION

Low Key Watersports, St. John, USVI—PADI 5-star IDC facility. Beginners thru experts, student referrals, certification, rentals. Hotel packages available.
Call: (800) 835-7718; (809) 693-8999

MISCELLANEOUS

Indonesian Safari
VHS—musical video
depicts world-class diving: wall diving, drift dives, night diving; also Komodo dragons, sacred eels and other mystifying wonders of exotic Indonesia; Entertaining $22.95 ea. (incl. postage). **Bill Mcdonald Productions, Box 225, Surfside, CA 90743**

FOR SALE

BAHAMAS
Dive Shop
Bahamas out island dive shop for sale. Turn Key, well known. 201-628-1190.

To join our new classified section here's all you have to do...

Send a check/credit card information along with your copy. The cost is $4.00 per word, not exceeding 30 words.
For more information about advertising on our internet site (http://www.divetravel.com), or to have your site listed on the Web Diver (below) please call Wayne Morgan, Advertising Manager, (408) 459-6188



THE WEB DIVER

DIVE SITES

http://www.coral.org

The Coral Reef Alliance—make direct reports to the alliance on the state of the world's and other cool stuff.

http://www.divxprt.com/see/sea

See & Sea Travel—the latest trips to a whole plethora of exotic destinations from one of the most experienced in the business

http://ecotravel.com/landfall

Landfall Productions—All the latest exotic trips and prices, plus some good photography

http://www.mad-dog.net

Mad Dog Expeditions—if you've got a thirst for adventure and a taste for the unusual this site should wet your appetite.

http://www.maui.net/robinson

Ed Robinson's Diving Adventures—the latest on the local island scene from one of the most respected insiders.

http://www.ozemail.com.au/~dudiv

Down Under Divers—all the latest on the Great Barrier Reef from the folks in Cairns, Queensland. G'day!

This issue's featured Web sites are just a small sampling of some of the wild and wonderful offering in the electronic ocean. Keep your eye out for this spot every issue for the latest and the greatest around the world. If you'd like to see your site listed in *Dive Travel's* Web Diver, contact Wayne Morgan, advertising manager, (408) 459-6188.

The Venezuela Connection

Step back in time —to an era when diving was an adventure...



Once you make the Venezuela Connection, it could be you basking on this beautiful beach.

Concept, as every designer from Da Vinci on down will tell you, is everything. So here's the concept: Don't think of the Venezuelan Caribbean islands as a resort vacation. Think of it as an embarkation site for one of the wildest diving expeditions you're likely to make. Ever.

The islands off Venezuela's 1700+ miles of northern coast have been touted by a bevy of experts as absolutely world-class diving. So fine, in fact, they're saying it's on a par with the Caribbean of 30 years ago—a mind-blowing array of visuals from soft corals to sharks, giant rays to mantas. With more than 70 major islands, and hundreds of small coral cays, the territory is definitely vast.

So let's throw out a handful of options to help the concept. You can spend your visit to this Venezuelan outback in a collection of simple lodges known as Las Posadas, on a live-aboard, or diving from the main arrival point, Margarita Island, with an established operation, Octopus Divers. It's not like you can go far wrong with this idea, unless virgin diving simply doesn't appeal to you.

Concept 1: Protected by the Venezuelan government as a marine park, the Los Roques archipelago is a collection of classic Caribbean cays. The lodging is simple: 50 rooms in all, but not all in one building. Rooms have ceiling fans, but there's no swimming pool, no snack bar; two restaurants serve all meals family-style. What there is, is diving—wall dives with legendary blue-sky clarity, coral, caves and many, many fish. Get that Robinson-Crusoe-by-the-sea feeling.

Concept 2: The *Antares III*, an 85-foot steel-hulled boat cruises the Los Roques group. Taking 14 passengers in six air-conditioned cabins, this is a way to see the whole marine extravaganza. You'll be able to fit in as many fluid descents a day as your computer and the available nitrox fills allow. The tour operator for Las Posadas and the *Antares III* is Aereotuy, who can also bundle an overnight to Angel Falls—a waterfall in the vastness of Venezuela's rainforested interior that thunders over a drop 15 times higher than Niagara Falls'— with your stay.

Concept 3: The other islands of the archipelago vary tremendously with the mountainous Los Testigos presenting a face like a Caribbean Galapagos, big thermoclines, big currents and big pelagics. Dive Los Testigos with Octopus Divers.

Concept 4: Stay on Margarita Island where Octopus, a CMAS and PADI Five-Star International Facility, offers packages with five-star resort accommodations, condos, and the option to make a side safari to Angel Falls. Octopus offers dives on Margarita, as well as Los Testigos, La Blanquilla and other outlying sites.

Foundational concept: Get a reputable and knowledgable U.S. rep to help you organize the basics. Dive Tours has the Venezuelan expertise to package any or all of these options—they represent both Aerotuy and Octopus Divers. In addition, Dive Tours can set you up with wholesale air prices on direct flights to Margarita from New York and Miami via VIASA airlines.

Whatever you choose, stand firm on the concept: You're looking for wild, wonderful and untouched.



These funky tube sponges are just some of the submerged sights to see in Venezuela.



Villas and palms are the way to go in this South American paradise.

The Venezuela Connection

U.S. Representative for Reservations:
Dive Tours
Address: 12200 Northwest Freeway, Suite 301, Houston, Texas 77092
Phone: (800) 433-0885
Fax: (713) 680-2306
Email: Divetours@aol.com
Weather: tropical and warm, year-round 85–95°
Water temperature: 75–90°

Adventure Connection

by Janet Blaser

From a diving safari to the Ribbon Reefs to the Daintree Rainforest, from a luxurious dive boat to the back of a 4WD, these folks get you out there!



Waterfalls are just some of the sights brought to you by Adventure Connection.

Maybe now is the time. Time to follow your heart, and go to that place you've always wanted to visit.

You know what I mean.

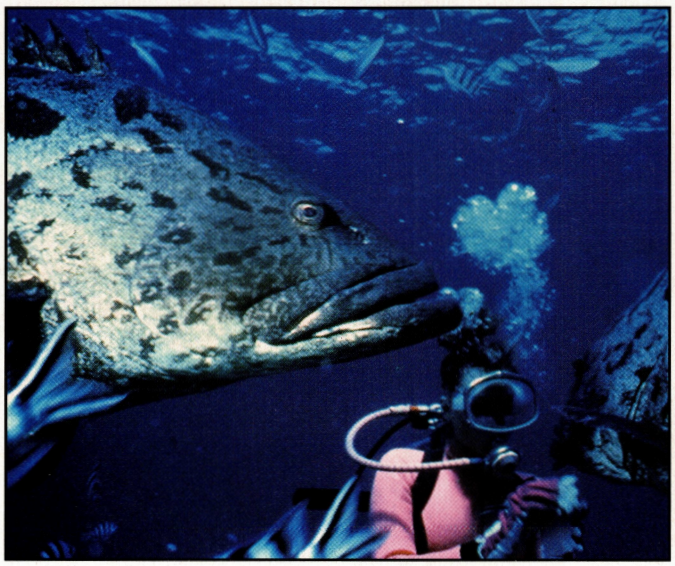
Australia. The land "down under."

Ever since you were old enough to daydream, when you closed your eyes, that's where you've drifted—the Great Barrier Reef, largest coral reef in the world. Breathtaking coastlines edge a land where ancient rainforests beckon, shades of greens backed brilliantly by azure sky and sea.

Queensland, on the northeast coast of Australia, is home to some of the most undisturbed parts of the continent. With a frontier that covers thousands of square miles, visitors can explore nature in all her glory. Here you'll find the town of Cairns, often called the gateway to two of the world's greatest wonders—the Great Barrier Reef and the oldest rainforest on the planet. And it is here that Adventure Connection Australia (ACA) is based. After you fly in to the airport at Cairns, you can leave civilization as you know it far, far behind.

Adventure Connection specializes in land and sea tours that explore the remote North Queensland area without compromising comfort or safety. Their philosophy is to introduce small groups of adventure travelers to the natural splendors that abound in this region, from treks through unspoiled wilderness to a multitude of dive excursions to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, stretching more than 1,000 miles off the coast.

Two state-of-the-art vessels accommodate the needs of those looking seaward. Day excursions are handled by *Moonlighting II*, a 50-foot luxury vessel that can also be chartered individually. For extended dive excursions—Adventure Connection's specialty—the *El Torito*, a 60-foot motor cruiser, is ready and waiting. The fully air-conditioned vessel carries 12 passengers plus crew, housed in two double and two four-berth cabins. Two Bauer dive compressors, two



Now that's a big fish! Australia's famous fish—the giant potato cod—glide through the azure waters of the Great Barrier Reef.



Adventure Connection's 60-foot motorcruiser, the El Torito. This live-aboard runs extended dive excursions for you scuba junkies who just can't get enough.

generators, and a saltwater desalinator ensure comfort for the duration of your trip. Spacious sundecks and comfortable living areas add a touch of luxury to your home away from home, and experienced, competent dive instructors assure individual attention to your every need—diving or otherwise.

Adventure Connection offers a menu of trip options from which you can choose. One package, a four-day/four-night excursion to the Northern Ribbon Reefs between Cairns and Lizard Island, takes in some of Australia's prime dive destinations. Divers can explore legendary dive sites such as Cod Hole, Pixie's Pinnacle, Steve's Bommie and Dynamite Pass, reveling in the exotic marine life and unspoiled coral reefs. A minimum of a dozen dives during this trip includes at least three night dives.

For the experience of a lifetime, Adventure Connection offers extended charter excursions of eight to twelve days from September to December. These unique expeditions give divers an abundance of time to savor the marvels that exist in the virtually untouched marine ecosystems of the Coral Sea and the Great Barrier Reef. For the serious diving enthusiast, a 10-day/nine-night trip to Flinders Reef, offers wall and drift diving, plenty of pelagics and a chance to view the Holmes Reef, whose abyss is the highlight of the trip.

Adventure Connection

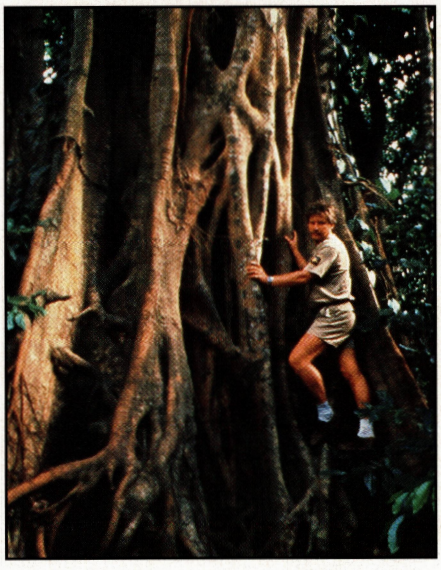
Address: Shop 20, Paradise Village, P.O. Box 74, Palm Cove, Queensland, 4879, Australia
Phone: (011) 61-70-591-599
Fax: (011) 61-70-591-614
Weather: tropical
Water temperature: 23-29° Celsius
Boats: two. a) 60-foot motor cruiser; b) 50-foot luxury sailing ketch
Capacity: (a) carries 12 passengers; (b) carries 22 passengers
Number of dives per day: maximum 4; minimum 2
Night dives: yes
Oxygen on board: yes, 50,000 1 plus 2 DAN resuscitators
Radio on board: two, UHF/VHF
Nearest medical personnel: on board, and via radio
Nearest recompression chamber: Townsville
Rental equipment: Seaquest/US Divers
Certification classes: yes, open water
Certifying agencies: PADI, NAUI, SSI, CMAS
Specialty classes: Specialty advanced rescue, divemaster and instructor courses available on request.
Number of instructors: five

An eight-day/seven-night adventure to the Great Detached and Ribbon Reefs begins either by boat via Lizard Island and the Ribbon Reefs, or by plane to Lockhart River, an isolated settlement hundreds of kilometers north of Cooktown. Three departures allow 12 guests to dream up their own custom itineraries from a variety of dive sites. Each trip includes 28 dives, including seven at night. And if you like, you can continue on to a week-long safari into the wilderness of Cape York.

Even if you're not a highly experienced diver, Adventure Connection has you covered. The ACA Dive School offers a variety of NAUI, PADI, SSI and CMAS accredited courses, with introductory pool dives to prepare you for day cruises to the Reef. Run by NAUI/SSI Instructor-Trainer Matthew Byrne, who has more than 5,000 dives under his weight belt, the school also offers Open Water Certification and refresher classes, as well as Specialty Advanced Rescue, Divemaster and Instructor courses.

Rainforest and outback safaris offer travelers another view of Australia, of the timelessly vast remote North Queensland area. ACA's four-wheel drive vehicles track the Daintree River and Rainforest, historic Kuranda, Cape Tribulation National Park, the Tablelands and the Great Dividing Range. Overnight accommodations range from country homesteads to bush tents to outback resorts. Meals are served in a variety of settings, as well. All vehicles are equipped with winch and recovery gear, Flying Doctor SSB radios, and are fully air-conditioned.

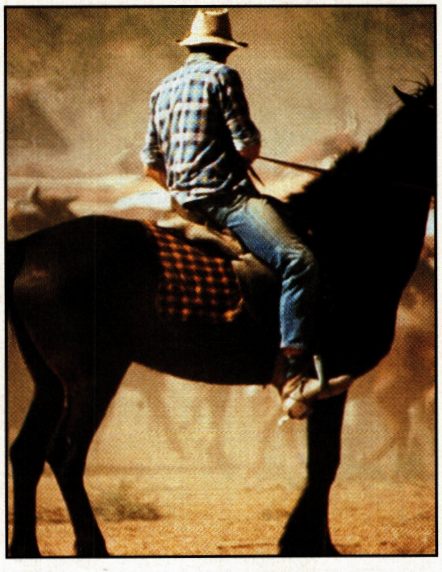
Land or sea, if you're ready for the trip of a lifetime, Adventure Connection Australia has what you want. They'll provide enough amenities to get you going, whether it's "down under" the water, or just plain "down under." So what are you waiting for?



Now that's a big tree! Outback safaris and wilderness treks to rainforests and national parks are specialties.



Relax and enjoy the good life down under in accommodations like this.



A taste of Aussie life— horseback riding with real, live Australian cowboys is always an option.

Tusa Dive

The best of the Great Barrier Reef—vast coral gardens, drop-offs, caverns and isolated pinnacles—all in a day. What are you waiting for?



Tusa's 65-foot dive boats are comfortable, and fast, transportation to some of the best diving in the world.

Ask any ten divers the best diving spots in the world. The Great Barrier Reef will be on everyone's list. Australian diving speaks for itself. So when you're headed for one of the best sites on the planet, what are you looking for? Attention to detail—small groups, individualized attention, quality equipment and custom, professional service.

That's the Tusa Dive way.

A locally owned business based in Cairns, Australia, Tusa Dive are specialists in dive and snorkel trips to the Great Barrier Reef. And their more than ten years of experience have led them to tailor their trips for an alternative reef tour for small groups where divers have a personalized, memorable experience.

Board one of Tusa's two modern high-speed vessels to make the 30-mile trip to the outer reefs. Cruising at 20 knots, it's about a 90-minute voyage under comfortable conditions—though the boats each have a 44-passenger capacity, Tusa draws the limit at 25. The crew makes the day's dive selection from one of the 20 sites that are accessible.

And oh, what sites! The dive menu includes shallow coral gardens, secluded canyons, some wall dives and isolated coral bommies that attract an awesome diversity of marine life. During lunch, the boat motors to a second site, and then it's back into the water for the rest of the day.

In addition to day trips, Tusa offers customized dive charters on the *Tusa II*. The *Tusa II* carries up to 14 divers on private charters to the Coral Sea and northern reaches of the Great Barrier Reef. Itineraries and time schedules are tailored to suit.

For those looking for very special Cairns-based accommodations to match the diving, Tusa Dive has a working relationship with the Palm Royale Cairns. Destined to become a Queensland classic, this 150-room establishment offers a sophisticated ambiance that can finish a dive day with a flourish. [See the Palm Royale Resort Report in this issue.]

So here's the equation: Take the once-in-a-lifetime experience of diving the Great Barrier Reef, add friendly and professional service, a wide selection of isolated sites and multiply by sleek, luxurious boats. Then subtract the crowds, and what's your answer? Tusa Dive on the Great Barrier Reef.



Get a little help from your friends, as the professional diving staff provides some assistance in gearing up.



With spectacular coral gardens like these, you can almost pretend you've returned to Eden.

TUSA DIVE

Address: Cnr Aplin St. and The Esplanade, (P.O. Box 1276), Cairns 4870, Queensland, Australia
Phone: (011) 61 70 311-248
Fax: (011) 61 70 315-221
Reservations: Through Oz Dive: (800) 4-PARADISE
Email: tusa@internetnorth.com.au
Live-aboard Boat: Two monohull boats, both 65 feet
Capacity: 44 per vessel, with day trips limited to 25 per boat. Overnight capacity: 14
a/c: yes, throughout
Restaurant: fully equipped galley
Number of dives per day: two per day trip
Night dives: during coral spawning in November
Oxygen on board: yes
Radio on board: yes
Nearest medical personnel: trained staff on board
Nearest recompression chamber: Townsville
Weather: tropical
Water temperature: 74–84°
Rental equipment: yes
Certifying agencies: PADI
Specialty classes: open water referrals, and four-day learn-to-dive package
Number of instructors: ten
Prices: Day trips start at US$85. Dive/accommodation packages available with Palm Royale Cairns. Six-nights lodging plus three-days diving: from US$499 per person. double occupancy.

Undersea Explorer

The Adventure Company invites you to cast off the chains of everyday life and have a learning vacation in the depths of Australia.





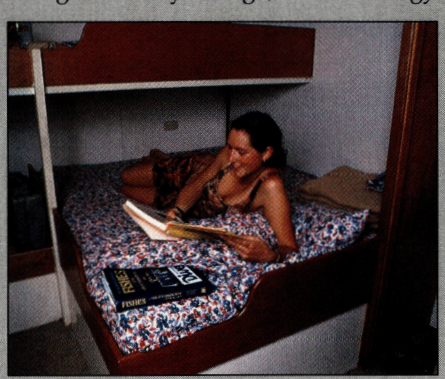
On the Undersea Explorer, see the depths of Australia in comfort.

To many people, the idea of research diving conjures up images of diving in zero visibility or icy cold water, but in Australia the opportunity for a warm-water educational vacation awaits the adventurous on the Great Barrier Reef.

The purpose-built dive vessel, *Undersea Explorer*, offers regularly scheduled research departures. Two types of trip are available. The first is a regular departure to the Coral Sea where one or two marine biologists are onboard carrying out field work. Passengers have the chance to participate at any level they wish. Alternatively, there are dedicated research trips, with very specific themes and objectives. The scientists may be studying and tagging several species of shark at Osprey Reef in the Coral Sea. Here travelers get to dive in waters that generally offer 200 foot visibility, waters filled with diverse species of all sizes and shapes, not just sharks. That's not something to pass by! Other scheduled research trips in 1996 include the pioneering study of dwarf minke whales, which were only recognized ten years ago, an archaeology expedition on the shipwreck *Foam* (1877–1893), and several aptly named Turtle Rodeo Expeditions, offering the opportunity to join with researchers to weigh, tag and observe these wonderful creatures.

The Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest coral reef system, stretching 1400 miles along the northeastern coast of Australia. Tropical coral reefs have the greatest density and diversity of life of any marine ecosystem; the region is a researcher's paradise.

The *Undersea Explorer* generally departs from the small coastal town of Port Douglas, just north of Cairns. Regular departures each Saturday visit Osprey or Bougainville reefs in the Coral Sea, as well as some of the more well-known dive sites like the Cod Hole. Occasionally departures venture farther north, reaching to the tip of Australia at Cape York. In addition, some trips depart from Townsville to explore the renowned *Yongala* shipwreck and travel on to Flinders Reef in the Coral Sea. If you are looking for a learning vacation or just a great diving vacation, the *Undersea Explorer* has a trip for you.



Curl up on your bunk at day's end. Your dive log becomes a journal of a fabulous vacation!



A fountain of marine color makes for excellent viewing on barrier reef dives.

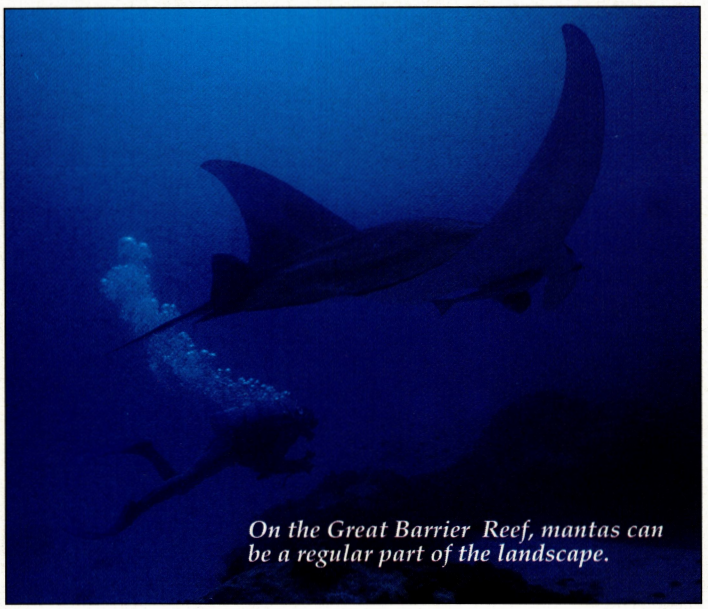
REEF PROMOTIONS

THE ADVENTURE COMPANY

Address: P.O. Box 5740, Cairns, Queensland 4870, Australia
Phone: (011) 61 70 514-777
Fax: (011) 61 70 514-888
Reservations: (800) 388-7333
Email: adventures@adventures.com.au
Live-aboard Boat: 80 feet
Capacity: 18 berths; there are 11 double cabins on board; 5 queen-size doubles.
a/c: yes
Restaurant: professional chef on board
Number of dives per day: four
Night dives: yes
Oxygen on board: yes
Radio on board: yes
Nearest medical personnel: trained staff
Nearest recompression chamber: Townsville
Weather: tropical
Water temperature: 72–88°
Rental equipment: yes
Certifying agencies: PADI
Specialty classes: shark, deep, wreck, naturalist
Number of instructors: one, plus two divemasters
Prices: For the 7-day Coral Sea trip, $1160. For extended and research trips, prices available on request.

It's a New Boat for Haba Dive

Diving the Great Barrier Reef with the fun folks from Haba Dive.



On the Great Barrier Reef, mantas can be a regular part of the landscape.

Sitting on a 747 high over the Pacific Ocean, one finds it hard to imagine the destination of Port Douglas, Australia. In fact, only 40 miles north of Cairns, Port Douglas is the hub of diving on the Great Barrier Reef. A quiet fishing village surrounded by mangroves and ocean, the outer barrier reef is just 20 odd miles away and the rainforest sweeps down to the foreshore. Truly one of the most remarkable places on earth.

Haba Dive operates trips to the Barrier Reef daily, and when it comes to professionalism, there's none better.



Just one of the reef's inhabitants, this school of jacks surrounds you in a silvery flash of light, then moves on.

For the 1996 season, Haba is launching a brand-new 60-foot Ocean cat, fully equipped for divers and snorkelers alike. And best of all, the reef is just a little over an hour away. With Haba, the dive sites you'll experience are pristine. And while you enjoy the day, Haba's professional crew looks after all your needs. The crew includes marine biologists and dive instructors. Night dives are scheduled for two or three nights a week, and PADI courses are run by arrangement.

The crew leads certified divers on a guided tour. For those who aren't yet certified, Haba provides snorkeling lessons, as well as introductory dives for first-timers. Rental scuba equipment (all-new Sherwood gear) and underwater cameras are also available.

At noon, everyone returns for the lunch buffet—the perfect setting for the morning's fish stories. Duff reports, "We often see manta rays, reef sharks—black tips usually, and we've got a Maori wrasse at one site. He's about five feet long, we call him 'Killer.'"

During lunch the boat makes the cruise to the second dive site of the day, while crew members give a mini-seminar on the wonder of life down under — underwater, that is. Haba's new boat carries 40 passengers in comfort. The six crew members all hold professional diving certificates and are trained in first aid and advanced resuscitation.



Moving softly in the current, this sea fan is a graceful sight, indeed.

The afternoon agenda reflects the morning's, rounded out by afternoon tea and an open bar on the ride back to the dock. Definitely a day of good fun.

And best of all, there's always tomorrow and the call of the reef and the wide blue sea.

HABA DIVE...

Address: Haba Dive, Shop 3, Marina Mirage, Port Douglas, 4871, Queensland, Australia
Phone: (011 61 70) 99 5254
Fax: (011 61 70) 99 5385

Boat: 60-foot catamaran
Speed: 28 knots
Capacity: 40 passengers
Number of dives per day: two
Night dives: yes
Oxygen on board: yes
Radio on board: yes
Nearest medical site: Port Douglas
Nearest recompression chamber: Cairns (about 40 miles away)
Rental equipment: yes, all new Sherwood equipment. Wetsuits and lycra suits also available.
Weather: tropical
Water temperature: High 70s to low 80s
Certification classes: yes
Certifying agency: PADI
Specialty classes: yes
Number of instructors: five
Accommodations can be arranged with any hotel in Port Douglas.
Prices: One-day diving: $133Aus.; One-day snorkeling: $93Aus. Packages available.



— Promotional Special —

Dive Under, Deep Under, Down Under!

Australia

This guide is designed to be a reference for selecting a dive operator and taking a dive vacation in Australia. Four major destinations in Australia are listed: Port Douglas, Cairns, Townsville and Airlie Beach—gateway to the Whitsundays. Each one is a jumping off area to a section of the Great Barrier Reef and the Coral Sea. Each destination has it's unique attractions and interests for divers, catering to a wide variety of tastes and desires.

Port Douglas is closest to the Great Barrier Reef. Here life is slow and laid back. If you seek refuge from the rat race and want to dive at your own pace, Port Douglas is for you. (see pages 2-3)

Cairns is a bustling city, diverse in culture and interests. Cairns attracts people from all over the world to enjoy its many wilderness attractions. It is the mecca for day trips and live-aboard diving to the Barrier Reef and Coral Sea. (see page 5)

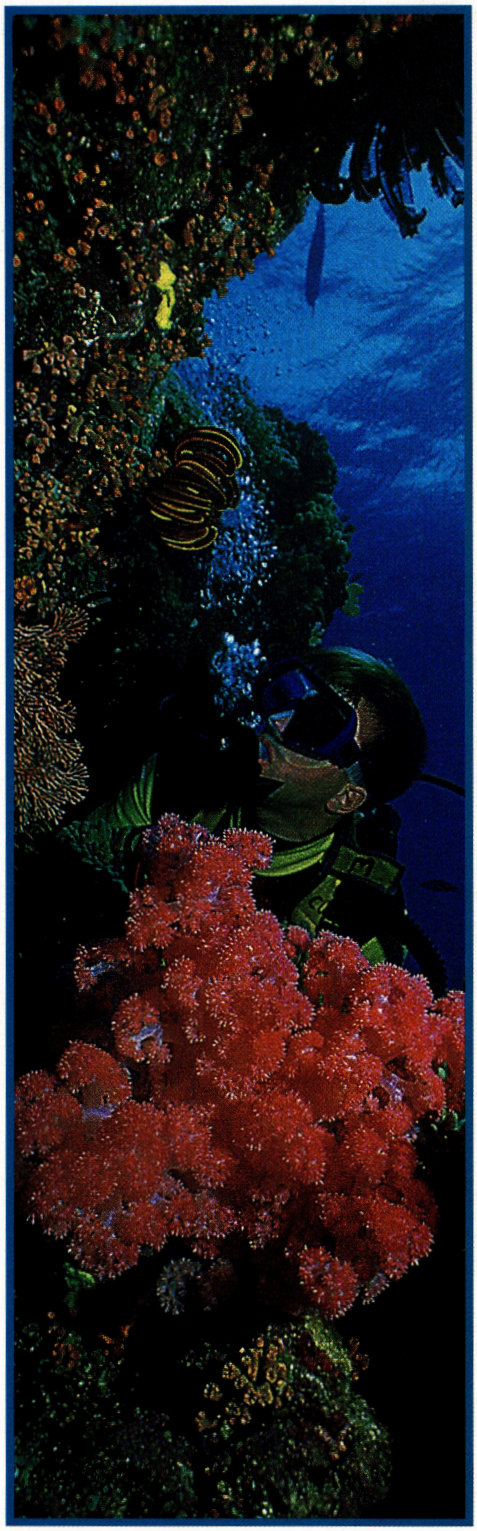
Townsville is Australia's largest tropical city and one of its largest seaports. This metropolis of 96,000 is home to a number of live-aboard dive boats and day boats to the Great Barrier Reef. Townville's top diving attraction is the wreck of the *SS Yongala*, a coastal steamship lost in a cyclone in 1911. The *Yongala* is considered one of the best wreck dives in the world.

Airlie Beach, gateway to the Whitsundays, is one of the most beautiful little beach towns in Australia. Hamilton Island, Heron Island and Lady Elliot island can all be accessed from here. Airlie beach is home to many day trip dive operators serving world-famous sites such as Bait Reef, as well as live-aboards to the Great Barrier Reef and the farthest reaches of the Coral Sea. Airlie Beach is truly Australia's best kept secret. (see page 4)

Australia offers something for everyone. For hard core divers a live-aboard is one of the best ways to explore the reefs. Divers can choose from budget boats to luxury liners, 21 day trips to 2-3 day trips. (see page 6-7)

Day boats are a popular alternative for divers who don't care for the live-aboard life. Most day-trip operators can offer a family or a mixed diver/non-diver group more flexibility in planning your holiday. Whatever your needs or desires, the dive operators in these pages are here to help you. For more information call or fax them direct. And happy diving!

Port Douglas Dive Masters







Port Douglas Dive Centre:

The Outer Reef—In A Day! Port Douglas Dive Centre specializes in day trips to three different sites on the Outer Barrier Reef. Introducing "Revolution" for unmatched diving or snorkeling. Australia's newest, fastest 15.5 m dive vessel gives you stability, comfort with a professional crew and buffet lunch included.

Port Douglas Dive Centre
P.O. Box 105, Port Douglas 4871

Call: 011-61-70-99-5327
Fax: 011-61-70-99-5680

Poseidon:

Dive or snorkel the Outer Barrier Reef and sand cays with Poseidon! Climb aboard for a fast and comfortable ride to select sites suited for scuba diving and snorkelling. Certified divers enjoy two or three dives in many different locations along the reef and cays. Cruises include morning and afternoon tea or coffee, buffet lunch, guided tour and snorkelling gear.

Poseidon/Sixteen South Charters
P.O. Box 431, Port Douglas 4871
Call: 011-61-70-99-5599
Fax: 011-61-70-99-5070

Haba Dive Shop:

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Haba Dive Shop
Shop 3, Marina Mirage
Port Douglas, 4871 Queensland, Australia
Call: 011-61-70-99-5254
Fax: 011-61-70-99-5385





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Reef, the only ribbon reef accessible to day trips, has a range of ecosystems unique to this region.

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ABEL TASMAN TOURS (800) 727 1626 SWAIN TOURS AUSTRALIA 1800 227 9246
Email: quick1@internetnorth.com.au Home Page: http://www.ozemail.com.au/~quick3

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Int Phone: 61 70 51 7366
Int Fax: 61 70 31 3318



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143 Lake St.
Cairns, Queensland 4870

Contact your Travel Agent
Call: 011-61-70-312-920
E-Mail: ospirit@ozemail.com.au
Fax: 011-61-70-314-344



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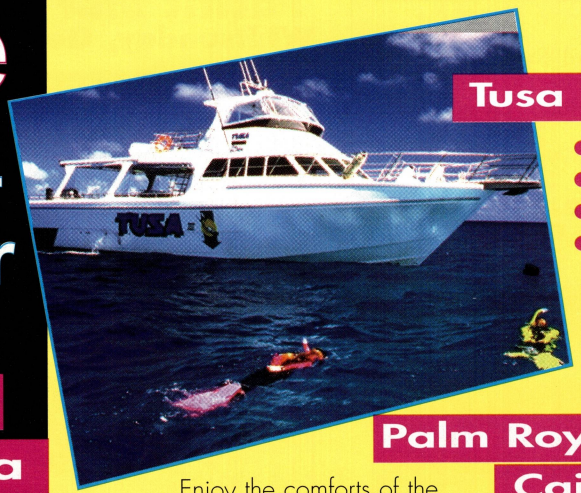
Deep Sea Divers Den
319 Draper St.
The Pier Marketplace
Cairns, Queensland 4870

Call: 011-61-70-31-5622
Fax: 011-61-70-31-5623

Dive The Great Barrier Reef

Cairns, Australia

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Fax: 011-61-70-514-888



Rum Runner:

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•Rum Runner, P.O. Box 6608 Cairns, Queensland 4870

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USA Toll Free Fax: (800) 842-4904
Canada Toll Free Fax: (800) 665-0757
Fax: 011-61-70-521-488



Reef Encounter:

Snorkel and dive six great locations along the Outer Great Barrier Reef and Islands aboard the 112ft, sleek timber-twin screw motor vessel—Reef Encounter. Enjoy an all-inclusive snorkelling adventure, dive trip or dive tour with 100% Australian owned Reef Encounter!

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73 Esplanade Cairns
Queensland 4870

Call/Fax: 011-61-70-317-217

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Live-Aboards



Taka Dive:

Taka II and III are roomy, comfortable vessels with spacious diving decks for trips to Cod Hole, renowned for the Giant Potato Cod and beautiful coral. The Coral Sea, famous for its spectacular visibility, is any photographers dream. Taka takes you there!

•*Taka Dive Adventures, 131 Lake St.*
Cairns Queensland 4870
Call Free: 011-61-008-241-7690
E-Mail: takadive@ozemail.com.au
Web: http://ozemail.com.au/~takadive
Fax: 011-61-70-31-2739



Pro Dive Cairns:

Pro Dive Cairns offers two comfortable vessels—Stella Maris & MV Kalinda— for dive trips to the GBR. With learn-to-dive to instructor courses, there is something for every kind of diver. Pro Dive Cairns is a PADI 5 star IDC with an ultra-modern training centre.

•*Pro Dive Cairns*
P.O. Box 5551 Cairns—Marlin Parade
Queensland 4870
Call: 011-61-70-31-5255
Fax: 011-61-70-51-9955



Adventure Connection Australia:

From dive safaris to wilderness treks, Adventure Connection's got it. Two boats—Moonlighting II and El Torito—to wisk you off to explore the Great Barrier Reef in comfort and style.

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Shop 9 Paradise Village
P.O. Box 74 Palm Cove
Queensland 4879
Call: 011-61-70-591-599
Fax: 011-61-70-591-614



Pro Dive Townsville:

Experience the thrill of diving the outer Great Barrier Reef and Australia's No.1 dive site—the *Yongala* wreck. The Beautiful coral gardens of Davie's Reef, shark sightings on Wheeler's Cay and the *Yongala*. 7 daylight, 2 night expert guided dives and unlimited snorkeling. Includes all equipment, meals, on-board accommodations and transfers. Optional PADI advanced course.

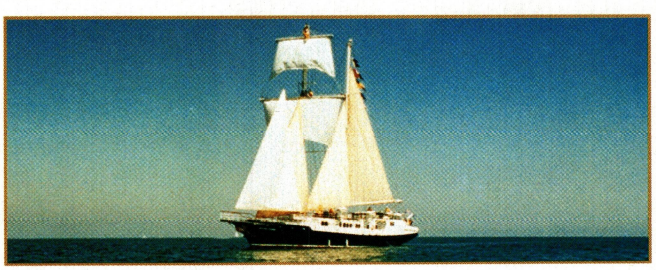
Pro Dive Townsville
Great Barrier Reef Wonderland, Townsville,Queensland 4879
Call: 011-61-77-211-760



Cairns Dive Centre:

Good times at a good value! Dive the Great Barrier Reef from the 85-foot catamaran—the Coral Reef. Courses offered from beginner to instructor—CDC is Cairns' only PADI and NAUI training facility. Prepare yourself for the ultimate barrier reef experience!

•*Cairns Dive Centre, 135 Abbott St. Cairns, Queensland 4870*
Call: 011-61-70-51-0294
E-Mail: divecdc@ozemail.com.au
Internet: http://www.ozemail.com.au/~divecdc
Fax: 011-61-70-51-7531



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Queensland 4870
Call: 011-61-70-311-288
E-Mail: dudive@ozemail.com.au
Fax: 011-61-70-311-373

DIVE AND SAIL

The Great Barrier Reef-Cairns

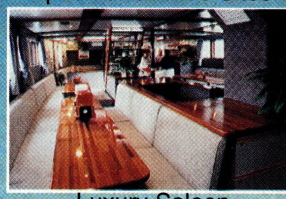
- Moored on the edge of the Great Barrier Reef
- Cruising daily to a new reef
- Fully air-conditioned throughout
- Spacious 2,3 and 4 berth cabins
- All dive and snorkel equipment
- Chef prepared meals
- Transfers depart Cairns daily

S.V. Atlantic Clipper—
140ft Sailing Tall Ship
Spend as many days and nights aboard as you wish!

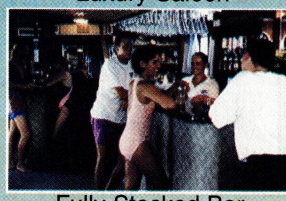




Spectacular Dive Sites



Luxury Saloon



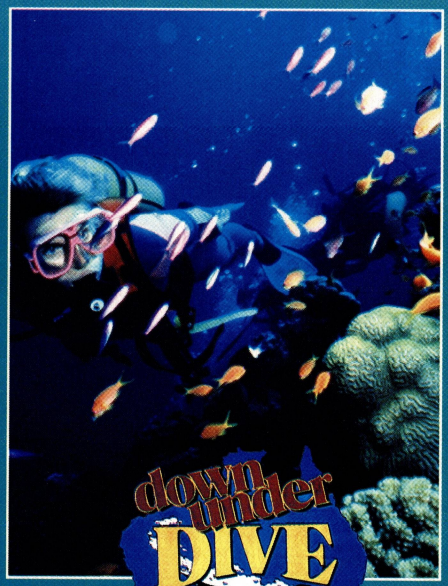
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Dive Travel Planners: Spring '96

Tobago
The number one Caribbean destination for mantas and other exotica including Carnival A short flight from Miami puts you in the middle of the action.



Bali
The exotic shores of the last paradise are home to cultural treasures topside and natural treasures below. A long trip, but well worth it.

Australia
Mecca for every serious sport diver. More than 1,200 miles of incredible reef, unlimited diving opportunities and surprising bargains.

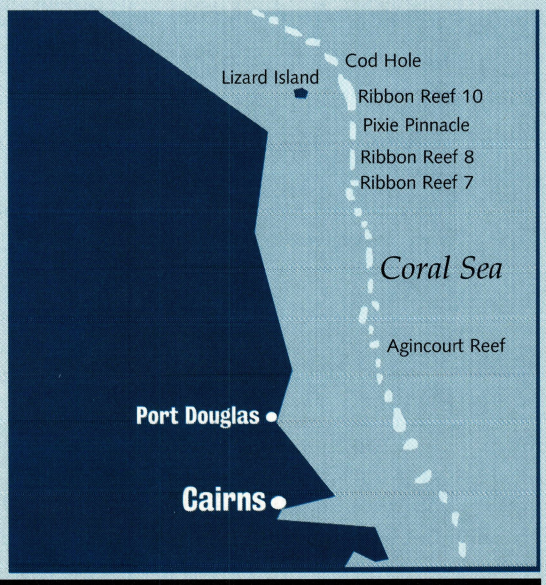
A few bugs cropped up in our last issue's Dive Travel Planners (Winter 1996). Just to set the record straight:
• **Bonaire:** Caradonna Caribbean Tours is a major wholesaler to the area, phone: (800) 328-2288; Fax: (407) 682-6000
• **Cozumel:** Dive Tours appeared in the Belize Planner, but was omitted in the Cozumel Planner, one of their prime locations, phone: (800) 433-0885; Fax: (713) 680-2306.
• **Red Sea:** The correct spelling and list for the live-aboards should be: Fortune I, Ghazala I and II and the Gran Bleu. The correct number for Tropical Adventures Travel is, toll free: (800) 247-3483

Dive Travel Planner: Australia

Destination: Queensland, Australia
Time Zone: Pacific Standard Time plus 18 hours
Airports: Brisbane Airport, Cairns Airport, Sidney
From the United States: Qantas Airways, United and Air New Zealand. Flights leave mostly in the evening from U.S. West Coast airports.
Entry Regulations: Travelers must have a valid passport, including an Australian visitor's visa. The visitor's visa allows a stay of three months without a processing fee.
Health Regulations: None
Currency & Exchange Rate: The currency is the Australian dollar and exchanges as U.S.$1 = A$1.25.
Airport Fees: There is a U.S. $20 departure fee.
Electricity: Electrical current is 240/250 volts, 50 Hz, but bring an adapter; the three-pin power outlet is different than North America's.
Domestic Transport: *Air:* Australia has both domestic and regional airlines. Ansett (AN) and Qantas offer special "fly and save" packages. *Land:* Taxis, tour buses, train. Rental cars run A$ 75–105. *Sea:* Numerous international cruise lines service Australia.
Language: English

The North

The northern end of the Great Barrier Reef offers some of the world's best diving. Half an hour's boat ride from Lizard Island lie some of the north's most spectacular dive sites including legendary names such as: Cod Hole, Pixie Pinnacle, and the Ribbon Reefs. The cities of Cairns and Port Douglas both make an excellent base for exploring any and all of these sites.



Credit Cards Accepted: American Express, Bankcard, Carte Blanche, Diners Club, Mastercard and Visa are the most widely accepted. In smaller shops and outer areas, use may be restricted.
Communications: Phone service is

generally easy and economical; long distance and international calls can be made from pay phones. Australia runs an efficient, but not too economical postal service. Most resorts take care of postal needs onsite.
Climate: Seasons are opposite of those in the northern hemisphere. Temperatures in the Queensland area average from 50–90° year-round.
Dress: Tropic weather calls for lightweight, natural fibers. Be prepared for slightly cooler temps too—a sweater or jacket for evenings.
Tipping: While tipping is not obligatory, a 10 percent gratuity is generally acceptable for special service in restaurants.
Cuisine: One of the regional favorites is a beer called XXXX, call it "Four X" to sound like a local. Tasty coral trout and humongous Queensland crab and crayfish, followed by succulent tropical fruit, are often the catch of the day.
Best Place to Eat: Try the Hog's Breath for steak roasted 18 hours—considered the best in the Queensland area.
Special Interest: For the partying kind, the old barge-turned-mobile-party palace—The Island—is happening. Craving a natural high? Check out the Currumbin Bird Sanctuary.
Best Night Spot: In Toowong, the big pink pub by the river, the Regatta Hotel, is the jumping joint. (By the way, in Australia, a hotel is not a place to sleep, it's a place to drink beer.)

Dive Briefing

With more than 1,200 miles of reef, Australia's Great Barrier Reef is the ultimate diver's paradise. The rainy season begins mid to late January. Water temperature is high 70s to low 80s year-round. In such an enormous area conditions can vary a great deal from site to site, but in general, visibility is excellent, especially in the far north where it can exceed 150 feet. With so many sites to choose from Queensland has something for everyone. For the uninitiated, it is one of the best places in the world to learn how, certifying more divers per year than anywhere else in the world. For the experienced diver, live-aboard expeditions into the Coral Sea offer some of the most exciting and challenging diving to be found anywhere. Wall diving, wreck diving, drift diving, 10,000 species of sponge, 350 species of coral, 4,000 species of molluscs, 1,500 species of echinoderms and more than 1,500 species of fish from swarming pelagics to humpback whales and everything in between—Queensland has it all.

Live-aboards

The following live-aboards run 7-10 day trips to the Coral Sea:
The Pacific Star (800) 247-DIVE
Mike Ball (800) 247-DIVE
Rum Runner (011) 61-70-521-488
Undersea Explorer (011) 61-70-514-777

The following live-aboards run 3-4 day trips to the Coral Sea:
Taka II & III (011) 61-70-51-8722
Adventure Connection (011) 61-70-591-599
Pro Dive Cairns (011) 61-70-31-5255
Cairns Dive Center (011) 61-70-51-0294
Deep Sea Divers Den (011) 61-70-31-2223
Reef Encounter (011) 61-70-317-217
Down Under Dive (011) 61-70-311-288

Two day trips to Yongala Reef:
Pro Dive Townsville (011) 61-77-211-760

The following live-aboards run 2-3 day trips to the Whitsundays:
Pro Dive Whitsundays (011) 61-79-46-6508
Barrier Reef Diving Services (011) 61-79-465-366

Day Boats

The following run trips for the day out of Port Douglas:
Quicksilver Diving Services (011) 61-70-99-5050
Haba Dive (011) 61-70-99-5254
Poseidon (011) 61-70-99-5599
Port Douglas Diving Center (011) 61-70-99-5327

Day trips from Cairns:
Tusa Dive (011) 61-70-311-248
Ocean Spirit (011) 61-70-31-2920
Don Cowie (011) 61-70-51-7366
Deep Sea Divers Den (011) 61-70-31-2223

The following run day trips to Bait Reef, the Whitsundays:
Whitsundays Diving Charters (011) 61-79-465-366

Accommodations

Recommended accommodations in the Queensland area:
The Beaches (2&3 bedroom apartments), Mango Tree (2 bedroom apartments and townhouses), The Heritage Lodge (1 bedroom cabin), Port Douglas Terrace (2 bedroom garden and 1&2 bedroom oceanview), Reflection of Port Douglas (2&3 bedroom garden and 2&3 bedroom oceanview); for info call Port Douglas and Beyond: 011-61-70-994-555.
The Palm Royale in Cairns (011) 070-322-700.

Wholesalers

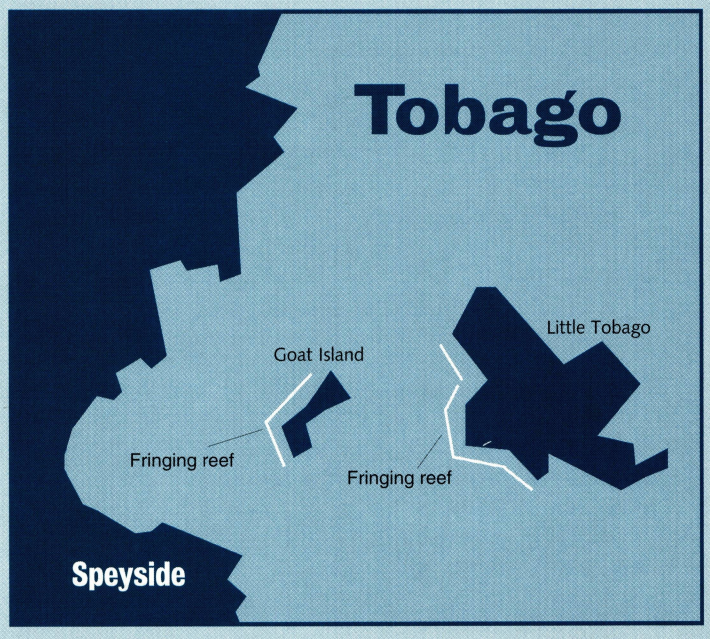
Oz Dive : (703) 406-2703, fax: (703) 406-2704;
Poseidon Ventures: (800) 854-9334, fax: (714) 644-5392;
Pro Dive Travel : (011) 61-22-64-9499, fax: (011) 61-22-64-9494 (011) 61-77-211-791, fax: (011) 61-77-211-760;
See & Sea Travel (800) DIV-XPRT, fax: (415) 434-3409;
Sportours : (800) 660-2754, fax: (818) 790-9321;
Tropical Adventures Travel : (800) 247-DIVE,
fax: (206) 441-5431;
Waterways Travel : (800) 928-3757, fax: (818) 376-0353

Dive Travel Planner: Tobago

Destination: Tobago
Time Zone: Eastern Standard Time
Airports: Crown Point International Airport, seven miles from Scarborough.
Airlines (from U.S.): Air Canada, American Airlines, BWIA International Airways, Guyana Airways and several charters.
Entry Regulations: Valid passport
Health Regulations: Routine immunizations are strongly recommended.
Exchange Rate: The Tobago dollar (TT$) floats against other currencies. Check the daily newspaper for exchange rates. Generally, the TT$ is around US $5.85. If you are staying on the eastern side of Tobago, exchange your money at the airport.
Airport Fees: Departure tax from Tobago is TT $75. Local currency only.
Electricity: 110 volts and 220 volts, 60 Hz so no adaptor is required.
Domestic Transport: *Air:* Interisland flights betweenTobago and Trinidad for around U.S. $50. *Land:* Taxis, buses and tour buses; rental cars run about US $40 a day. *Sea:* Ferry service is available.
Language: English is spoken by almost everyone.
Credit Cards Accepted: Most major credit cards are accepted in tourist areas.
Communications: Telephone; the area code is 809 and is used without the 011 international code when dialing from the U.S. Fax service is available in most hotels. There are three big local daily newpapers—*Express*, *Guardian* and *News Day*—plus several smaller publications.
Climate: Temperatures generally range from 75–85° degrees with a light, cool offshore breeze.
Dress: Light and casual. Shorts are fine for both men and women.
Water: Drinking water is potable.
Tipping: Standard is 10 percent, unless a service charge is included in your bill.
Cuisine: Though fast food joints have flooded the market, Tobago has their own popular local foods like roti—chapati-like pancakes wrapped around meat, shrimp or vegetable curries. Or try another local favorite such as corn soup, lobster or shrimp from Trinidad, and wash it down with cold, local beer like Caribe or Stag.
Best Place to Eat: In Speyside, try Redman's Local Simple Restaurant for inexpensive dining, or Jemma's for delicious dining in a sea almond treehouse by the water's edge. In Charlotteville, try Sharon and Pheb's. Local street vendors sell boxes of

Tobago

From a diver's perspective Speyside is where the action is, although diving is possible in many other locations as well. The western and southern slopes of both Goat Island Reef and Little Tobago Reef, accessible only by boat, offer a combination of excellent diving conditions and good diversity and numbers of marine life. The prevailing northerly current in the area restricts most diving to the drift variety.



Dive Briefing

Water is in the upper 70s to lower 80s; visibility is 100 feet or more in peak season. January through May usually affords the best conditions on the Atlantic side of the island. Divers with a little more experience will have the easiest time here, good buoyancy control skills are a must because currents are extremely strong. Snorkeling is both popular and spectacular right offshore for those who do not choose to dive. All the reefs in the Speyside area are fringing reefs allowing easy access to the reef shallows from shore. About 44 species of corals and 65 species of fishes inhabit the reefs along with numerous species of invertebrates and plants. Deeper areas on the reef slopes are characterized by large sponges, particularly barrel sponges.

fruit. Simonetti claims the fruit is unbelievable and the vendors are very friendly and easily found.
Special Interest: Eco-tours are hot. Visit giant leatherback sea turtles. Check out over 430 species of birds, 620 species of butterflies, or see plenty of bats and reptiles. Hiking and bird-watching with naturalists on Little Tobago is also a cool, above-water way to spend the day.
Best Night Spot: There are several lively little bars in the Crown Point/Scarborough area, otherwise this is a quiet, rural environment. Simonetti says: Friendly conversation with the locals in a nice little restaurant is the ticket.
Best Sovenir: Street vendors sell unique jewelry made from local seeds—a great gift for anyone wanting an authentic Tobagonian trinket.

Accommodations

Recommended accommodations:
Blue Waters Inn: (800) 742-4276, (809) 660-4341/4077; fax: (809) 660-5195
Manta Lodge U.S. (800) 544-7631, (809) 660-5268; fax: (809) 660-5030
Ocean Point Inn (800) 544-7631
Rex Turtle Beach (800) 255-5859

Dive Shops

Aquamarine Dive Ltd.: (800) 327-6709, (809) 660-4341/4077; fax: (809) 660-5195
Tobago Dive Experience: (800) 255-5859, (809) 660-5268; fax: (809) 660-5030

Wholesalers

International Diving Expeditions: (800) 544-DIVE, fax: (714) 891-2154
Maduro Dive Fanta-Seas: (800) 327-6709 fax: (305) 371-2337

Reference

Birds of Trinidad and Tobago, by Richard French
Lonely Planet: Travel Survival Kit—The Eastern Caribbean

**Author's Choice:*
The Guide to Coral Reefs of Tobago, by Richard S. Laydoo. Simonetti picked this one up at the airport and says the information is great for divers going to Tobago.

Dive Travel Planner: Flower Garden Banks

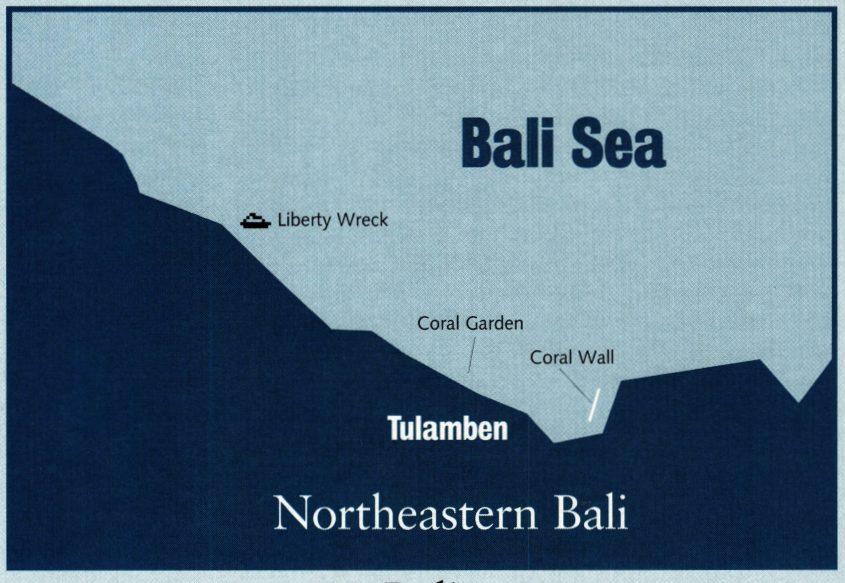
Destination: The Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary, Freeport, Texas
Time Zone: Central Standard Time
Airports: Houston Hobby Airport is the closest of the two Houston airports, one hour from Freeport.
Credit Cards Accepted: All
Climate: Hot and dry
Land-Based Accommodations: Since the majority of your trip will be on the live-aboard, you'll only really need land-based accommodations for a night or two preceding or following your trip. Houston Hobby Airport is close enough to stay at the airport, traveling to Freeport the day of departure. Otherwise, there are three main towns near the departure point—Freeport, Lake Jackson and Clute, Texas. Prices are fairly standard.
The Diving: Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary is about 100 miles offshore of Freeport, Texas, so there are no day trips. Visibility is generally 50–100 feet. Water temperature ranges from 67–86°. In the summer, check out the juvenile mantas; in the winter, see adult mantas, schools of hammerheads, or the occasional whale shark.
Dive Shops: For reservations, contact one of these shops in the Houston or Clute areas:
Davey Jones Dive & Ski: (409) 860-1700
Houston Scuba Academy: (800) 638-7788
M & M Scuba: (409) 299-3483
Ocean Sports: (713) 880-1287
Oceanic Ventures, Inc.: (713) 523-3483
Sea Sports Scuba: (713) 862-1185
Live-aboards: The main operator servicing the Sanctuary is Fling Charters, with two boats. Trips aboard the 100′ *M/V Fling* and the *M/V Spree* are generally dive-intensive jaunts running from three to five days. These are comprehensive, no-frills big boats, with accommodations of 30 single bunks and two doubles housing a total of 34 people. A full galley serves three meals a day, snacks and beverages.

Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary
Phone: (409) 847-9296

Fling Charters
Phone: (409) 233-4445
Fax: (409) 233-0040

Dive Travel Planner: Bali

Destination: Bali, Indonesia
Time Zone: Pacific Standard Time plus 16 hours
Airports: Ngurah Rai Airport
Airlines from the U.S.: Garuda Indonesia Airlines and fares vary according to your departure point.
Entry Regulations: Have a valid passport and a visitor's visa, good for 60 days, will be issued at the airport. Watch out for people offering to carry your bags, it can be very expensive. Remember, bargain for everything.
Health Regulations: Routine immunizations are recommended. Tetanus and polio or a polio booster are required. Typhoid and paratyphoid vaccinations are strongly reccommended. Hepatitis A, hepatitis B and malaria are also advisable. Yellow fever is only recommended if arriving within six days of leaving a yellow fever locale.
Currency & Exchange Rate: Unit of currency is the rupiah (rp) with an exchange rate of U.S. $1 = 2180 rp.
Airport Fees: Tax on international flights varies between airports but is generally 4000 rp for internal flights and 11000 rp for external flights.
Electricity: 220V, 50 Hz. Bring a converter and check which current is installed before plugging in appliances.
Domestic Transport: *Air:* Garuda, Merpati, Mandala, Sempati and Bouraq are some of the larger domestic carriers. *Land:* Bus, taxi, bemo, opelet, becaks and dokars. *Sea:* Ferry service is available for interisland travel.
Language: Official language is Bahasa Indonesian, which includes many different dialects. On Bali there is a special Balinese dialect. English is also widely spoken.
Credit Cards Accepted: Most major credit cards are accepted.



Bali

The village of Tulamben doesn't look like much topside, but that's not why divers go there, anyway. The Liberty is both an excellent wreck and shore dive while the coral wall, just to the east, is an added bonus.

Dive Briefing

There are eight main diving areas on Bali: Nusa Dua, Sanur, Nusa Penida, Padang and Candi Dasa, Cemeluk, Tulamben, Pemuteran and Menjangan. Each location offers a dive for every level of experience, except Nusa Dua and Sanur where all the dives can be done by beginners. Water temperature is generally in the high 70s and low 80s. In winter temperatures drop to the low 70s, occasionally as low as the middle 60s. Some sites are quite cool due to upwelling. Visibility varies a good deal from site to site, but generally is good—60 to 80 feet. During the rainy season (January to March), visibility may be reduced at Nusa Dua, Padang Bai and Cemeluk.

Communications: Using a telephone in Bali is difficult, not very reliable and often expensive. However, fax service is readily available, reliable and fairly priced. Getting English and Australian newspapers is easy, as well as international magazines, though these are on the pricey side.
Climate: Hot and tropical with average temps, 80–95°. Rainy season is generally in October, and it is still hot. The dry season is from December - March.
Dress: Bali is a popular international tourist destination, so dress codes are more liberal than in other Indonesian cities. Most casual, warm weather clothing is appropriate.
Water: Drinking bottled water is advised.
Tipping: In large, western-style hotels, tip according to the quality of service rendered. In the rest of Bali

Dive Travel Planner: Bali

tipping is optional.
Cuisine: The cuisine on Bali is typically Indonesian—rice, vegetables, seafood—with a somewhat spicier twist.
Best Place to Eat: Take your pick. Food is incredibly cheap. Most of the local restaurants offer outstanding Indonesian cuisine at a great price. A full Indonesian meal with all the frills runs about the same price we pay here for a hamburger.
Special Interest: Snorkeling on Bali is superb. In addition, Bali is amazingly rich in culture—the different dances, theaters, arts and crafts studios, and hundreds of temples are a must-see. Also take trek a up to Mt. Batur, a local volcano that has a lake with a temple on its shore inside the crater's mouth.
Best Night Spot: The Peanuts 2 Club. The original club was a favorite haunt of celebrities like Mick Jagger and members of The Police. Peanuts 2 has taken up where the original left off.
Best Souvenir: Bali has no shortage of great souvenirs. Huge markets full of arts and crafts literally line the streets—wood carvings, batik clothing and gamalan instruments are good picks.
Live-aboards: Most of the diving in Bali is land-based. However, there are a few live-aboards like the *Baruna Adventurer* that are either based out of Bali, or include Bali in expeditions around the rest of Indonesia. Check with your wholesaler for details.
Accommodations: The best and easiest spot to find any kind of tourist accommodations is in the south, Kuta—Nusa Dua—Sanur Triangle—most of the shops and resort facilities are there. There are accommodations close to the good dive spots like Candi Dasa or Tulamben, but they won't be as plentiful, or as comprehensive as the southern accommodations and services.

Dive Shops

Most of the shops are concentrated in the tourist triangle. Standard prices for a guide, transportation, lunch and a two-dive visit run from U.S. $60—85. Expect to pay U.S. $35–45 for a one-tank night dive. Rental equipment is readily available.
Bali International Diving Service, Jalan Raya, Kuta 16M; phone: 751-342; fax: 752-956
Baruna Water Sports, Jl By Pass Ngurah Rai 300B, Kuta; Mailing address: P.O. Box 419, Denpasar 80001, Bali; phone: 751-223; fax: 753-809
South Bali:
Indonesia Diving Adventure (at the Bali Mandira Hotel), Jl Padma, Kuta; phone: 751-381; fax: 752-377
Pineapple Divers (at Legian Beach Hotel), P.O. Box 308, Jl Melasti, Kuta; phone: 51313
Wally's Special Tours (through Grand Komodo Tours), phone: 287-166; fax: 287-165
Bali Marine Sports, Jl Bypass Ngurah Rai, Blajong, Sanur, phone/fax: 287-872
Dive and Dives, Jl Bypass Ngurah Rai 23, Sanur, phone: 288-052
ENA Dive Centre, Jl Pangembak 07, Sanur, phone: 287-134; fax: 287-495
Oceana, Jl Bypass Ngurah Rai 78, Sanur (Mailing address: Box 734, Denpasar 80228), phone: 288-892; fax: 288-652
Nusa Dua:
Barrakuda Bali Dive (at the Bali Tropic Palace Hotel), Jl Pratama 34A, Nusa Dua, phone: 772-130 ex. 731; fax: 772-131
Candi Dasa:
Balina Diving, in the hotel of the same name.
Sea Lion Diving Club (Bali Samudra Indah Hotel), phone/fax: 35542
Tulamben:
Dive Paradise Tulamben (next to the Paradise Palm Beach Hotel), P.O. Box 31, Amlapura 80811, Bali

Wholesalers

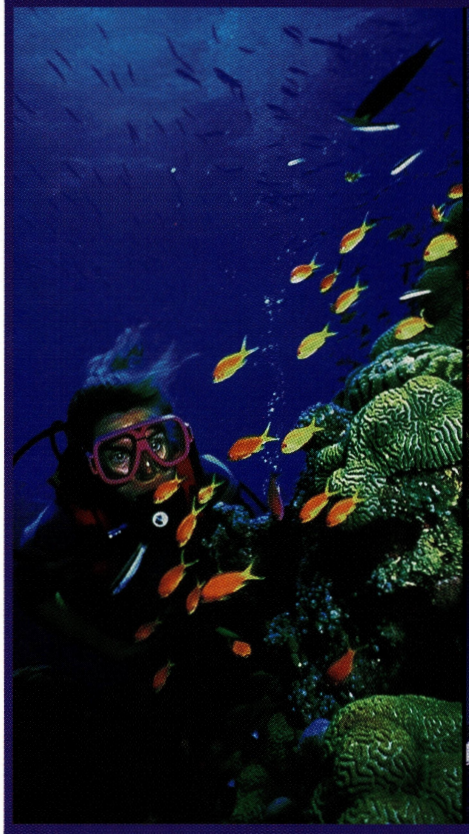
Maluku Adventures: (800) 566-2585, fax: (415) 364-9945
Great Destinations: (800) 741-2178, fax: (916) 448-7192;
International Diving Expeditions: (800) 544-DIVE, fax: (714) 891-2154
Poseidon Ventures: (800) 854-9334, fax: (714) 644-5392

Reference

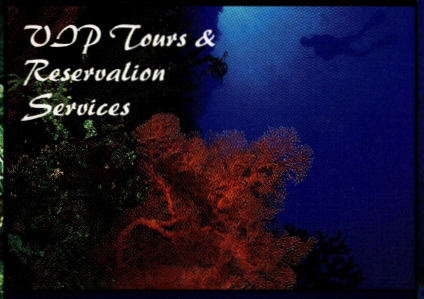
The Indonesia Handbook, by Bill Dalton, Moon Publications, Inc.
Underwater Indonesia—A Guide to the World's Greatest Diving, by Kal Muller, Periplus Editions.

Write or call the Indonesian Tourist Office, 3457 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 104, Los Angeles, CA 90010; (213) 387-2078.

Cairns and Port Douglas











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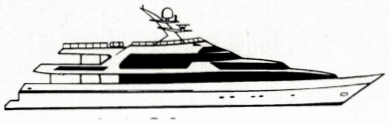
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Queensland, *continued from page 57*

ing it an excellent base for day trips. Agincourt Reef, at the southern end of the Ribbon Reefs, has great diving in a number of locations and two diving platforms. It even has its own wreck—the remains of a Taiwanese fishing trawler. St Crispin and Opal Reefs are also popular day trips, as is Nursery Bommie with its thousands of clownfish, schooling barracuda and pet moray eel.

The Ribbon Reefs are one of the premier sites on the reef. A chain of coral ramparts extending over a huge area, the Ribbon Reefs support such a thriving community of sea life you can stop almost anywhere and be gauranteed a fantastic dive. Some of the better known highlights include Cod Hole, at the northern tip of Ribbon Reef No.10. Here you can get up close with friendly giant potato cod, some over eight feet long! Pixie Pinnacle, a bommie on the southern end of No.10, is a sheer wall with pelagics and a great variety of invertebrates, it makes an excellent night dive too. Dynamite Pass, just north of No.10, is an exciting drift dive. The wall is from 13 to 130 feet below the surface and visibility averages 100 feet. The Detached Reefs, between Cooktown and Cape York extend from three feet below the surface to the seabed at 1,650 feet. This is the ultimate in sheer wall diving with visibility extending to 140 feet—giant sponges, sea whips, rays, sharks, colorful fish and corals mind-boggling in both variety and numbers—it's all here. The Detached Reefs are remote, but well worth the effort.

Basing your stay in one of the mainland cities of the far north makes it easy to explore the area's other great living attraction, the rainforest. Rainforest walks, guided tours and four-wheel-drive expeditions are all within easy reach from Cairns or Port Douglas. Just north of Port Douglas is Mossman—the end of the road. Here the Captain Cook Highway comes to an abrupt end at the ferry crossing on the Daintree River. On the northern bank begins a four-wheel track that winds a tenuous path through the rainforest to Daintree National Park and Cape Tribulation National Park. The

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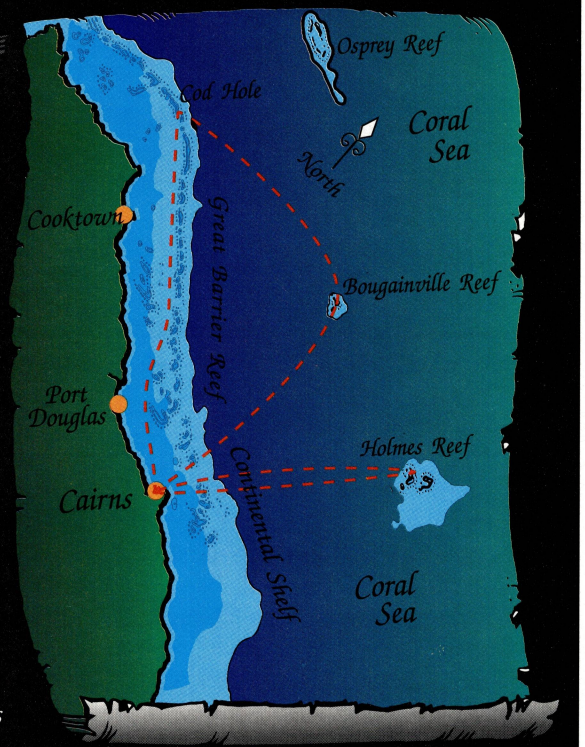
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Daintree River is renowned for its crocodiles. Swimming here is not advisable. River cruises to spot the crocs are a fun (and much safer) alternative, and the Mossman River Gorge offers a lovely short walk through the rainforest to the river.

Of course the number one attraction in northern Queensland is still the reef. And for good reason. No matter where you stay or how you get there, the diving on the Great Barrier Reef ranges from superb to legendary. Take a two-week grand tour in the Coral Sea on a five-star luxury live-aboard, or a simple day trip with a local operator, it is unlikely you'll be disappointed.

For families and groups with non-divers reef tours are available that include a whole range of activities such as reef walks, island visits and snorkeling, as well as diving. For a fun alternative, try a combination sail/dive tour. The reef is so close here that you can be blowing bubbles in an underwater wonderland within an hour. The Great Barrier Reef is home to an amazing variety of fish and more than 340 species of identified coral, making it one of the world's most diverse coral reefs and a virtually inexhaustible natural wonder. The majority of facilities serving tourists lie between Townsville and Port Douglas. The farther south you go, the farther offshore the reef lies, the longer it takes to get to, and the less demand there is to go. And, in general, there is a corresponding increase in the cost of getting there. But those willing to plunk down the dollars and make the extra effort are rewarded with the same excellent diving and a splendid isolation they aren't likely to find in the most popular areas of the north.

If you enter or leave the country by way of Brisbane, day trips are available there, including the Sunshine Coast, Moreton Bay and the Gold Coast. Though not part of the Great Barrier Reef, this area features excellent coral diving, wrecks and pelagic dive sites. Whether you have a couple of days in Queensland, or several weeks, it won't take long for you to understand why the Sunshine State has earned its reputation—beautiful one day... perfect the next!

For more information see the Australia **Dive Travel Planner** on page 101

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Tobago, *continued from page 62*
snappers, a school of cero, but no mantas.

After lunch we head to Japanese Gardens, a drift dive around the southern tip of Goat Island. Before we get in the water, Jacquie, a second divemaster who joined us this morning, singles me out. "On this dive," he says, "we must stick together."

I consider letting him know about my mission, but I can see he's in no mood. He's heard it before. Another yahoo wants to see a manta. Besides I was wrong to keep myself apart from the group. The divemasters in Speyside have a tough job. Much of the diving here is not for novices. Keeping an eye on everyone in this area's strong currents leaves them little time for fools on quests.

We enter the water adjacent to a wall covered with sea fans. Heeding Jacquie's request, I school with the rest of the group, and it's just as well. The current moves us at amusement park ride speed. We race over fields of Christmas tree and feather hydroids, past queen angelfish whose colors contrast sharply with the orange-brown hues of the water.

Suddenly Anthony takes a hairpin turn between two coral- and sponge-encrusted boulders the size of houses, toward the den of a nurse shark. We pause to gaze at the eight-footer.

Stopping in the current puts everyone's buoyancy control to the test and many fail. The divers grab every living thing within reach to get a glimpse of the shark. It breaks my heart to see some kick coral and grab hundred-year-old sponges to steady themselves in the current. And it bothers Jacquie too. More than once he adds small bursts of air to a diver's BCD.

While I understand that dive operators need all the business they can get, they need the coral for the same reason. Maybe giving divers a talk on buoyancy control prior to getting wet, as is done in Bonaire and elsewhere, would help. While a single short lecture doesn't give anyone experience, it can educate the ignorant and remind once-a-year divers of coral's delicate nature.

Tobago's government is considering designating the waters off Speyside a marine park. Among the benefits of this legislation would be an opportunity for dive operators to develop a set of standard behaviors for divers. One could be a no-glove rule. Most everyone I dove with all week wore gloves—a guaranteed recipe for disrespectful handling of marine creatures.

Past the shark's lair the current slows, and we finish our dive against a slope covered with rope sponges as thick and luxuriant as a woman's long hair. As I climb aboard the boat, I realize I've forgotten to look for mantas. I was distracted, by the current, the shark, by seeing divers touch the coral, but mostly by the raw beauty of the place.

Back at the lodge, my wife—my usual dive partner—is waiting. It kills her to stay on shore, but she, excuse me, *we* are pregnant.

She has to ask. "Did you see a manta?"

"No."

"What are you going to do? You'll be the only writer who's come to Tobago and hasn't seen one."

Until now I've been in denial, but Lisa's question unmasks the possibility I won't see Speyside's holy grail. I ignore the thought. We go snorkeling.

The next two days pass quickly. I dive Angel City, Bateau Bay, Keleston Drain, Shark Bank, and although I know the answer, after each dive I ask Anthony if he saw any mantas. He just shakes his head.

On the morning of my sixth day, I board Renee's pirogue again, This time I'm with a dozen birdwatchers and a local naturalist, David Rooks, bound for Little Tobago. As a boy, Rooks hunted deer, agouti and peccary with his father in Trinidad. But, like many naturalists before and since, he put down his gun when he realized he was killing the things he loved.

I learn from Rooks that Tobago has changed since Columbus. A deciduous forest once completely covered its lower altitudes. Sugar planters cut it all down in the 18th and 19th centuries to grow cane. Today this forest only survives on Little Tobago. Monkeys, foxes, muskrats, ocelots, sloth, otter, manatees and Caribbean monk seals were also wiped out by



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Tobago's European colonists.

Some colonists, however, did care about conservations. In the early years of this century when feathered women's hats were in vogue, Little Tobago's owner turned the island into a bird sanctuary.

The island remains home to some winged wonders. After a half-hour hike we reach a lookout on the secluded northern coast. Winds from Africa create strong air currents which rise against the cliffs. On this lift and in the crevices the red-billed tropic birds live and breed. In front of us, hundreds of the unique seabirds soar, dive and play on the wind. If Webster's defined words with moving pictures, in every dictionary after the entry for "joy" would be film footage of tropic birds in flight. Seeing them for the first time, my disappointment at missing the mantas, is consoled.

Between Shark Bank and Little Tobago is The Bookends. Here the vertical sides of two large volcanic rocks face one another, separated by a dozen yards claimed only by the waves of the Atlantic. In front of this giant empty bookshelf, I make my last dive. Tomorrow morning I leave for Trinidad and home.

I can hardly call the trip a failure. I've discovered a place where the real riches of the New World still exist. Yet I can't help feeling Tobago hasn't yielded me the knowledge I sought. Renee detects my feelings and speaks to me for the first time all week.

"The mantas," he says in a measured Tobagonian drawl, "they're just like you and me. Sometimes they go on the outside, and sometimes they go on the inside."

I wait for more, but his attention has shifted to steering the boat as close to the rocks as possible. Underwater my disappointment is forgotten—washed away by the explosion of life before me.

Suddenly, Anthony's wail shatters the harmony. I look and see his arm extended. I follow it into the haze at the edge of our vision. 70 feet off, is a manta. It's swimming directly towards me, its mouth wide open, skimming along only a foot above the reef. It comes so close I could reach out and touch it, but I don't. I just let it pass—gazing back long after it's faded out of sight.

For more information, see Dive Travel Planner, page 103

Tobago

COME DIVE RIGHT IN!

Tobago is the most southerly island of the Caribbean chain of islands. ■ Located 21 miles northeast of its sister isle, Trinidad, it is 26 miles long and 7 miles wide and has a population of approximately 46,000. ■ The island, though quiet and laid-back, is blessed with natural beauty. ■ There are many attractions: palm-fringed beaches, rustic fishing villages and secluded bays and coves, an abundance of marine life, wildlife, rich flora and fauna due to its proximity to the South American coast as well as tempting coral reefs. ■ On this gem of an isle, one can find the oldest rainforest, 17,000 acres protected by law since 1776. ■ Tobago has a broad range of highlights to offer the diver. ■ Giant manta rays and leatherback turtles, beautiful angelfish and tarpons...it's all here. ■ The richness of species continues topside. ■ Waterfalls and bird sanctuaries are the perfect addition to any dive vacation. ■ Just pick one of our many diver-friendly hotels

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Manta Lodge/Tobago Dive Experience

Manta Lodge, one of Tobago's newest hotels, houses the largest dive operation on the island, Tobago Dive Experience. At this 22 room hotel which overlooks the untouched bay of Speyside, certified instructors provide friendly and professional PADI and NAUI courses, from Open Water to Assistant Instructor. Tobago and the clear Speyside waters are considered the home of the Manta Ray, as one of the few locations in the world where mantas are sighted regularly. The reefs in the area provide a gentle introduction for the first-timer or a more challenging dive for the experienced diver. Japanese Gardens, Manta Bowl, Shark Bank, Heart Attack Alley— there is something for everyone. We have truly captured the essence that is Tobago!

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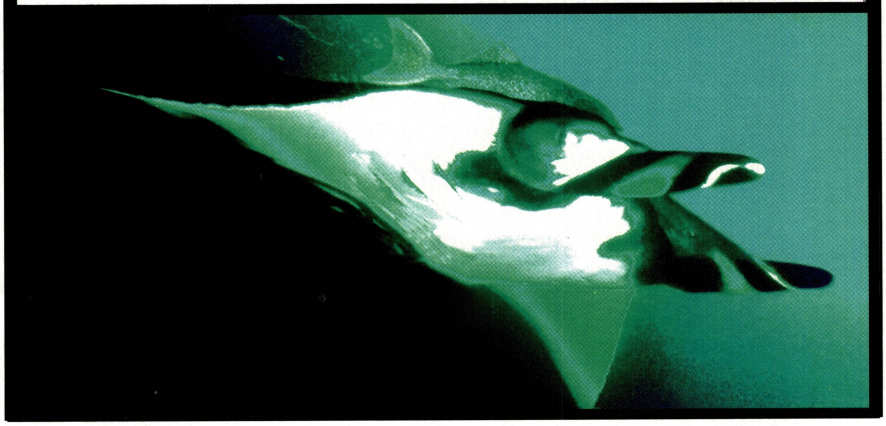
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sea rods or deep water sea fans. The trick to telling them apart, says Humann, is to notice how the arms branch. Black sea rods have arms with many tiny L-shaped branches like those of a saguaro cactus. Deep water sea fans have Y-shaped branches.

Suddenly Anthony's wail shatters the harmony. I look to him and see his arm extended forward. I follow it into the haze and at the edge of our vision, 70 feet off, is a manta. It's swimming directly toward me, its mouth open wide, skimming along only a foot above the reef.

I freeze, hold my breath and stare. The manta banks back and forth around sea plumes and large sponges, but continues toward me. At the moment when I think it's going to wrap its wings around me, it turns, and lifts its right wing over my head. I see two remoras on its white belly. I see one of its tiny black eyes. I see a soft white patch on its right shoulder. It is so close I could reach out and touch it, but I don't. I just let it pass—gazing back long after it's faded out of sight.

Finally the hypnotic spell breaks, and I turn to examine the branches of the soft coral. They're Y-shaped. These beautiful black gorgonians that grow throughout the waters of Speyside are deep water sea fans. Now I know.

Green Oz, *continued from page 73*

gathered at the gate to beg bananas and copulate wildly for the amusement of the tourists. That always got a laugh, and it paid pretty well in bananas, too. After that we were fresh out of ideas.

We turned to Wayan, our driver, for inspiration, but he was uncomfortable in the role of guide. He shuffled his feet and studied the ground and scratched the back of his neck.

"Well, many people go to Gunung Kawi," he suggested hopefully.

"Gunung Kawi? Sounds perfect." I said. "What is it?"

It is a pair of 11th century temple-tombs carved into the living cliffs, facing each other across a bouldered stream at the bottom of a narrow gorge choking in thunderous greenery. The path down was lined with all the usual souvenir stalls, but the stairway was steep and long and the suffocating heat discouraged most tourists. It was even hotter at the bottom.

According to legend, a giant carved the tombs out with his fingernails. Giants, spirits, ghosts and demons are all pretty busy on Bali. They do nice work too, but it doesn't take long to appreciate a tomb. We were more interested in the landscape. Lovely little waterfalls spilled over the rim of the canyon and every inch of arable land had

been sculpted into a fantastic wedding cake of rice terraces. We wandered along the streambed looking for good pictures and nothing in particular, splashing in the mud, wading the stream when necessary. Wayan seemed anxious at first. It was irregular behavior for tourists, no doubt, but he followed along, and eventually took the lead when neither Westmorland, nor I, demonstrated any talent for scouting a rice paddy trail. We were big and clumsy, but not particularly fastidious and that, finally, seemed to put him at ease. We found a pretty green pool and stripped to our shorts for a wash in the shallows—Balinese style. Our sloppy hike had established a kind of fraternity. We laughed and chatted. Wayan's English was very good. He was from a small village in the Bangli district.

"We could go to my village," he suggested. It was an unexpected intimacy. He seemed slightly embarrassed.

"Sounds good," I said. "Let's do it."

I hope I am never called upon to find my way around Bali. North and south are more or less a matter of uphill and downhill. After that, it's all guesswork. Little roads loop over the terraced ridges and tunnel through the jungle canyons. But in a few minutes the boutiques and souvenir stalls and hotel sprawl were behind us. Wayan looked pleased. He became more garrulous with every mile. He told us about his wife and his baby girl, though he looked barely out of his teens himself—maybe not even—but it is difficult to judge the age of a Balinese.

I will never know how they knew we were coming. Maybe they heard the car—an unusual enough occurrence in a tiny out-of-the-way village, I suppose. In moments they surrounded us with the kind of spontaneous happy hubbub our culture reserves for dignitaries like Santa Claus and the Publisher's Clearinghouse assault team.

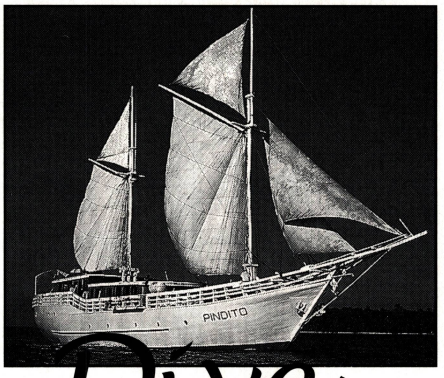
Wayan introduced us around. They asked us bashful questions then the whole village trooped us around to show off their amazing temple and their homes. Many of them spoke English, and the village was not without tokens of the outside world, but it didn't take too much effort to imagine the Bali of 60 years ago—okay, 30 years ago. Being invited into one of these hidden Balinese villages in the age of murder, child abuse and every kind of rampaging bad craziness is like tripping over a solid gold meteorite. I do not consider myself a sentimental person, but only one word comes to mind when I think of those Balinese villagers—sweet. Their sweetness is a treasure and a living indictment. Something we lost many centuries ago, if we ever had it at all, mashed down in our bowels with all the other traits we didn't imagine we'd need in the world we invented. The question resonated in my head like the gong of doom: For what? For what?

Two hours in that village made return to our glittering savage world a nauseating prospect, and wounded me with a painful arrow of nostalgia which I have never dislodged. An affliction aggravated by the knowledge that the Faustian seductions of my world were very likely putting this kind of human being on the list with species like the Hawaiian O'o and the Tasmanian tiger.

As we drove away the villagers waved. The children chased the car up the road. Wayan searched the radio for a rock station.

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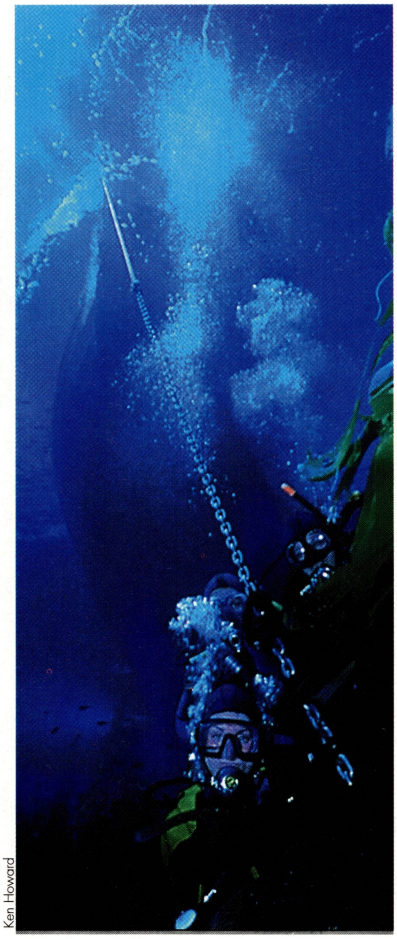
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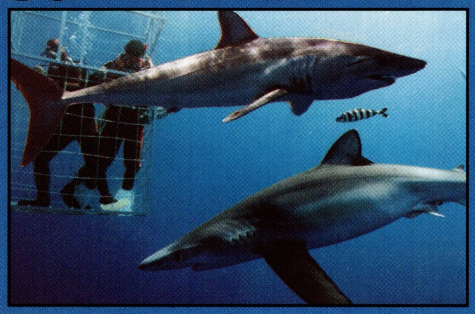
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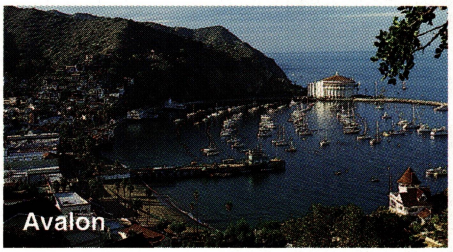
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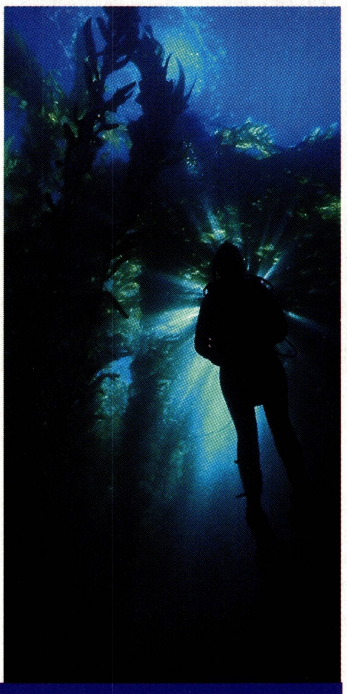
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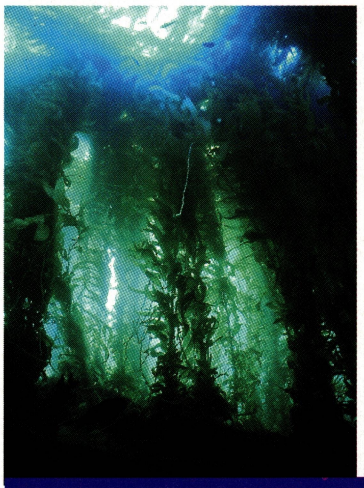
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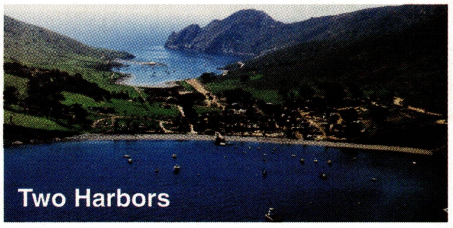
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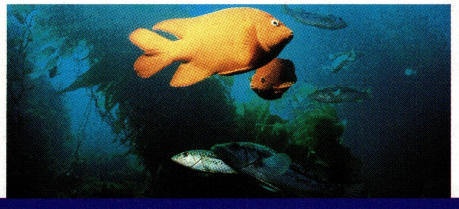












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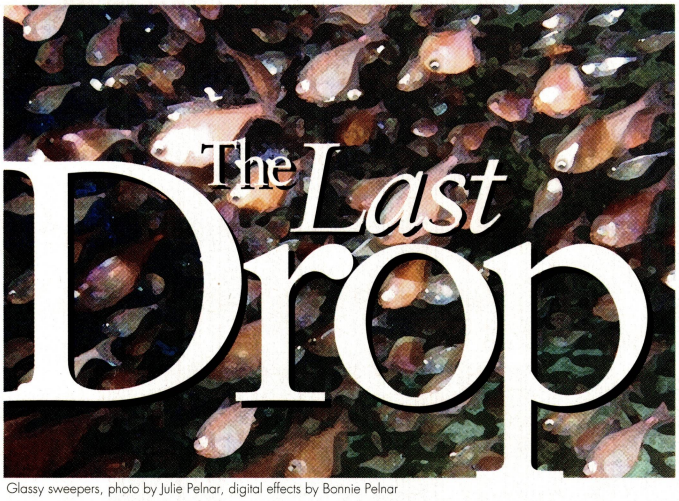
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Glassy sweepers, photo by Julie Pelnar, digital effects by Bonnie Pelnar

A picture is worth a thousand words, or so the saying goes, but sometimes a few figures are worth a thousand pictures...

- Revenue generated per year from domestic tourism in the U.S.: $417 billion
- Tax revenue generated from tourism in the U.S. in 1994: $58 billion
- Revenue generated from trade surplus in the U.S. in 1994: $21.6 billion

- Ranking of the travel and tourism industry as an employer in the U.S.: Second
- Ranking of the travel and tourism industry in retail sales in the U.S.: Third

- Percentage of the world's tourists who originate in just 10 countries: 70
- The ten countries are: United States, Canada, Japan, United Kingdom, Sweden, Germany, France, Italy, the Netherlands and Austria.

In 1994:

- Number of tourists who visited Indonesia from the United States: 169,061
- Number of tourists who visited Indonesia from Japan: 476,456
- Number of tourists who visited Indonesia from the United Kingdom: 162,204
- Number of tourists who visited Indonesia from Germany: 160,325
- Number of tourists who visited Indonesia from France: 72,314
- Number of tourists who visited Indonesia from Italy: 74,571
- Number of tourists who visited Indonesia from the Netherlands: 134,717

- Number of divers who visited Bonaire in 1994: 25,000
- Revenue generation from diver's admission fees: 390,000 NAF (approximately), or US $220,000
- Number of tourists who visit Papua New Guinea annually: fewer than 10,000

- Number of tourists who visit the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary in Freeport, Texas annually: 2000
- Number of coral species at the Flower Garden Banks: 21
- Number of macro-invertebrate species: 250
- Number of fish species: 175

- Amount of water used per person, per day in Haiti: 1 gallon
- Amount of water used per person, per day in Fiji: 6 gallons
- Amount of water used per person, per day in Indonesia: 8 gallons
- Amount of water used per person, per day in Costa Rica: 12 gallons
- Amount of water used per person, per day in New Zealand: 116 gallons
- Amount of water used per person, per day in the U.S.: 159 gallons

- Amount of municipal waste generated per person, per year in Guatemala: less than 600 pounds
- Amount of municipal waste generated per person, per year in U.S.: more than 1400 pounds

Sources: The New State of the Earth Atlas, 2nd Edition, Joni Seager; The Tourism Works for America Report, 1995; Indonesian Tourist Office; The Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary.

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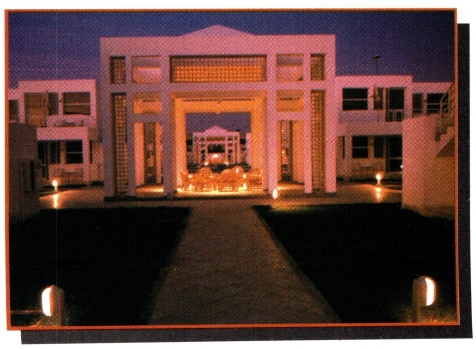
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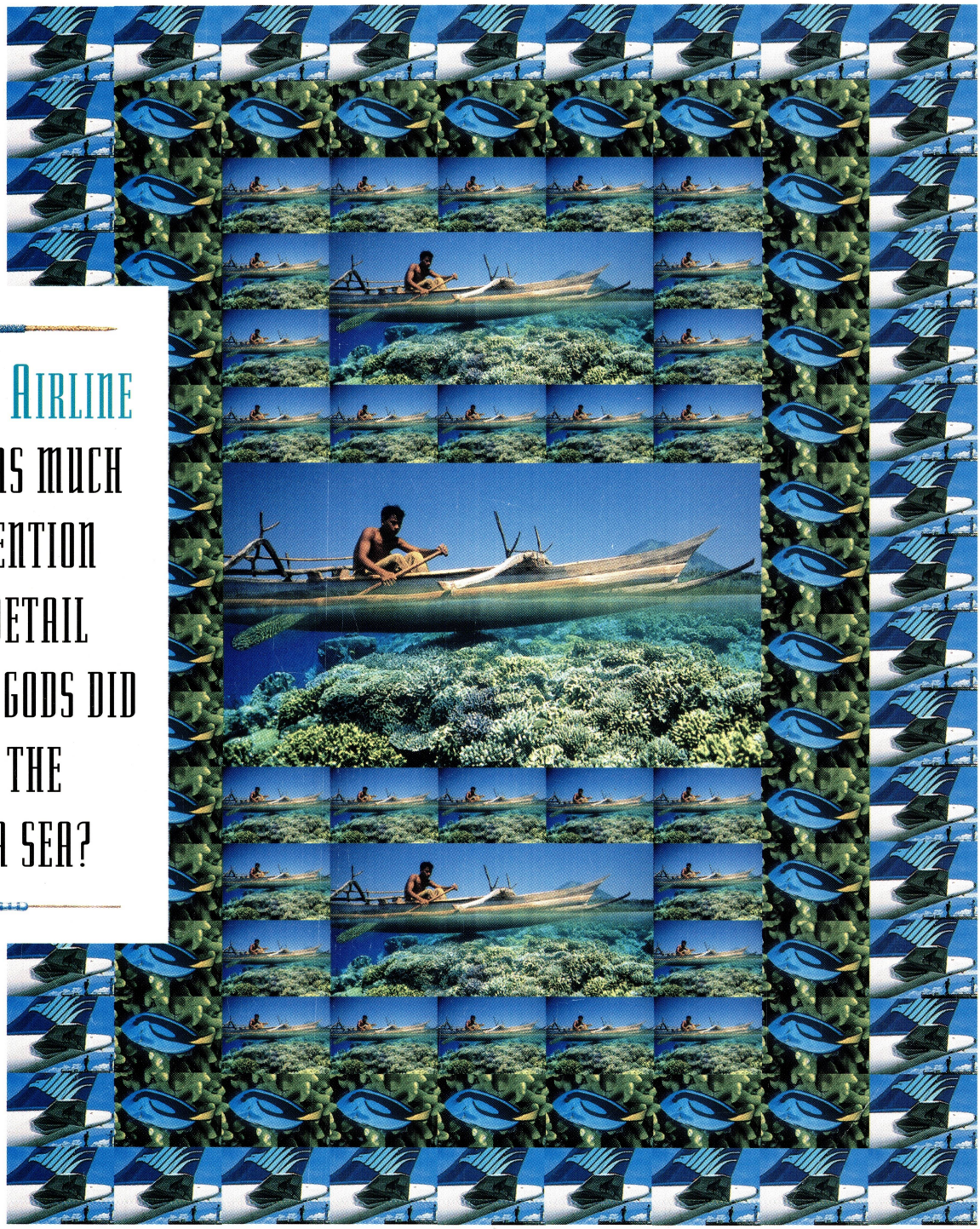
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